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OCTOBER 11 / 2001 [54.10]

Student sends premier her savings

by Darren Stewart

Michelle Kinney has taken up the premier's offer to send her provincial income tax rebate back.

In a speech late last month B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell said that people unhappy with deep cuts to provincial taxes could simply send their money back.

Kinney, Director of Services for the UVic Students Society, wrote Campbell a cheque for $12.25 and asked that it be spent on post-secondary education, childcare programs and transition house services.

"It's important that Gordon Campbell understands that a lot of people only supported this tax cut because he said the tax cut would pay for itself," she said to a group of reporters who watched her sign the cheque. "He was wrong, and now he's going to cut programs and that's not what people voted for."

Kinney said the amount on the cheque was how much she saved each month since the cuts were introduced. But she said that the tax cut was already useless to her because it sent her into a higher income bracket and forced her as a single mother to pay $13 more each month in child care premiums.

"I would much rather young people get the education they need, children get the quality care so their parents can work or go to school, and women to know that support is there for them if they should ever be abused in their home, than receive a tax cut that doesn't make that much difference in their daily lives."

She said the cuts to services had been more drastic than promised in Campbell's election campaign.

Kinney admitted that sending her cheque was a symbolic act and that her tax refund wouldn't make any difference to the programs being cut. But she said that if high income earners and corporations were forced to return their tax then the province would see a significant rise in income.

"Sending my cheque in won't do much," she said. "But if [wealthy Vancouver entrepreneur] Jimmy Pattison sent his cheque in then that would make a difference."

Campbell made the remarks during a speech to B.C.'s municipal politicians. He offered to change government policy so people who mail back their tax money to the finance minister can specify which ministry or service it goes to.

Campbell said that the tax cut did not lead to the government's current fiscal problems and he continues to expect that returning more money to taxpayers will stimulate the economy.

A spokesperson in the finance minister's office said that the ministry set up an account for people who want to send their rebates back. He said the minister's office had been receiving calls about the offer but Kinney's cheque was the first to be sent back, as far as he knew.

He said the government would ensure the money was allocated appropriately.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

photo by Graham Winterbottom

The UVic Vikes women's soccer team played the role of spoiler Monday afternoon at Centennial Stadium. UVic beat Trinity Western University 2-0, ending the Spartans 13-game unbeaten streak and keeping alive the Vikes hopes for a Canada West playoff berth. The victory left UVic atop the Canada West standings with a 4-1-2 record. UVic is tied with Alberta for points, although the Golden Bears have one game in hand

University prepares for BC Liberals to end tuition freeze

by John Thompson

Last Thursday the UVic Board of Governors held a special meeting on the B.C. government's tuition freeze review.

The meeting was triggered by a letter sent to university administrators and student groups from Shirley Bond, minister of Advanced Education. It asked for input on funding and suggestions for making up lost revenue.

Members of the board believed the government's decision to remove the freeze was all but made and focused their discussions on what position the university should take.

"Looking at these questions, I think it's clear they've already made up their minds," said UVic president David Turpin at the meeting.

Some of the questions the ministry asked the university to answer included, "Do you agree that student access has been reduced as a result of the freeze. If so, how?" and "Are there other implications and hidden costs to students?"

"It's like they're saying, 'we've made the decision: validate it,'" Turpin said.

Student representative Morgan Stewart agreed the decision may have been predetermined.

"It was definitely a political decision, used to set the stage where decisions like increasing tuition can be made," he said.

Stewart called for the university to take a strong public stance.

"We need to be able to say, 'This isn't the right way to go,'" he said.

Not all board members were as outspoken as Stewart but they all agreed more dialogue with government was needed.

"We have to indicate that a broader discussion is required," Turpin said.

Because quorum wasn't met, no final decisions could be made during the meeting.

Meanwhile most students on campus feel the tuition freeze should be kept but few expect the provincial government to share their views.

"They might not (eliminate the freeze), but I'd be surprised," said Scott Laming, a fourth year Economics student. He said the effects of removing the freeze will depend on whether tuition is raised incrementally or abruptly.

"If they crank it up, it might force me to leave," he said.

Laming's fears are echoed by another UVic student.

"At this time I can just afford tuition. So if it went up, I'd have to take out a loan," said Megan Garriock, a fourth year English student.

But not everyone on campus thinks the freeze should be kept. Fieran Mason-Blakey, a fifth year Computer Science student, blames the freeze for long waitlists and inadequate funding.

"We don't have enough money as it is," he said.

While he doesn't like the prospect of tuition being raised, Mason-Blakley said funding should be redirected towards student loans, which he said aren't adequate to cover the cost of going to school for a year.

Dorothy Rogers, an English grad student, said the B.C. government never considered education to be a priority in the first place.

"They already view students as a privileged minority. I'd like to find out how many of them have degrees," Rogers said, referring to the BC Liberals.

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Associations rally to impeach Concordia student president

by Phillip Todd

MONTREAL (CUP) – The student government at Concordia University could be brought down within a week if a petition to oust the president gathers enough signatures.

Students campaigning to unseat Concordia Student Union (CSU) president Sabrina Stea charge that their activist, politically outspoken student government is damaging the reputation of their school and hurting students' job prospects.

Concordia's Engineering and Computer Science students' associations (ECA), the Commerce and Accounting students' association (CASA), the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and various students at large are spearheading the campaign.

The petition comes in the wake of the CSU's failed attempt to expel several corporations from campus and a controversy over the union's student handbook that has received national attention.

The political handbook, "Uprising," was distributed free-of-charge to students. Some students reproached the union for a publication they considered anti-corporate and preachy. B'nai Brith Canada alleged the handbook attempted to incite hatred and violence. Both the CSU and the university have said the accusations are without merit.

Stea contends her executive is under attack for its left-wing, activist politics — not for its performance administering the union. She said the union has spent much of its time working on the handbook and is only now beginning to focus on other projects.

"Because we have had to focus on the handbook, we haven't even started doing the concrete work that we want to get done," said Stea.

Stea said the executive is listening to students but not taking steps to counter the petition. She said that for the time being everything is business as usual.

"If the petition goes through then we'll deal with it, but in the meantime we still have obligations to fulfill."

Mike Nimchuk, president of the ECA, said many students are happy to see a movement to oust Stea taking shape.

"People are fed up. A whole bunch of people have come up to say "we're tired of this" and that they want to do something about the CSU," he said.

Nimchuk said at the pace signatures are coming in, a new election may be just over a month away. He said his group is well on the way to garner the required signatures from 10 per cent of the student body to force an election.

Although Nimchuk said the petition is a success, many on campus say they support the union.

"I'm impressed with the student union here," said Jason Wilkens, a second year biology student.

"I think they are taking an active role in my everyday issues. They help with getting money back from the school — things that otherwise students wouldn't know about," he said.

Others say the CSU's anti-corporate position has the potential to harm students' job prospects upon graduation.

Edgar Pierre, a fourth year bio-chemistry student said he's worried that a Concordia degree won't get him a job anymore because the school is so closely associated with radical politics.

"I'm graduating this year, and this isn't good for me because I'm going to the job market. Since Concordia is on my CV, employers might continue to look elsewhere," he said.

Stea said the CSU will maintain its ground on corporatization. If corporations don't want to hire Concordia graduates because of the student union's actions, she said, then the corporations should re-evaluate their hiring practices.

"It's not my responsibility that the companies have bad labour politics or bad practices and I don't think its any students' responsibility either," she said.

Jonathan Carruthers, a CSU president from 1995-96, said a Concordia union opposed to corporations is nothing new.

"Concordia over the years has almost always attracted radical student governments," he said.

"This is a university that is all about critical thought. It is impossible not to have discussions of these kinds. The student union should act as a catalyst, a moderator, between different opinions. A student union should be there to promote discussion on every issue."

Stea said that even if a new election is called, left wing and progressive voices at Concordia won't be quelled.

"I think a lot of people have been challenged by what's in the handbook and they think that by getting rid of an activist or left wing executive that activism and the left wing opinion will go away," said Stea.

Attendance a factor at student society AGM

by Elissa Bergman

UVSS directors are worried that the routine Annual General Meeting on October 18 won't have the necessary 90-student audience to reach quorum this year.

The fear, voiced by several members of the executive, is that the lack of student attendance will prevent the UVSS from addressing student concerns when passing important legislation.

Jonas Gifford, UVSS Director of Finance, said that it's difficult to reach quorum this early in the year.

"The last two years October meetings have not met quorum," Gifford said. "Controversial issues are huge factors in attracting students. A routine meeting like this tends not to."

Gifford added that students at all interested in what UVSS does with their money should come out.

"The budget is extremely important," Gifford said. "It determines what we do with students' money."

Although Board of Directors approved the budget in August it's not final until it goes through the AGM, which Gifford said takes quorum of 20 students to pass.

Student society chair Jaime Matten agrees nothing too controversial is coming to the AGM, but is anxious quorum be made so changes to electoral by-laws can be passed.

"In previous years we have recognized the electoral policy needs revamping," Matten said. "It's very exciting to see it almost finished and just needs to be passed."

However, Matten said that if the AGM falls under quorum, the electoral policy would have to wait till the February AGM.

"If we would fall under quorum in February we would have to run under old electoral policies," Matten said.

Adam Peters, Director at Large, worked extensively on electoral by-law changes throughout the summer and hopes they're finalized soon.

"We want the by-law changes solidified so we know co-op students can vote, members of the UVSS can vote and good standing students can vote," he said.

Peters also said there were problems in the past with co-op students being able to vote.

"I'd like to get the by-laws changed because of the co-op section," Peters said. "We cleaned it up so there is no way a co-op student won't be able to vote unless they don't want to."

Another important aspect of the electoral by-law changes is polling hours, said Peters.

"The polling hours have been increased this year," Peters said. "I understand why students didn't have time to vote in previous years. The polling stations will follow the polling hours this year."

Sarah Webb, UVSS Director of Academics, predicts that 100 students will show.

"I think there is enough interest for students to show up that we don't have any worries," Webb said. "I would hope 1000 people would come."

Webb added that the meeting is a prime opportunity for students to voice things they like and dislike.

UVic Indymedia club opens fountain library

by John Thompson

Last Wednesday students basking in the sun by Petch fountain were confronted by a publicity stunt aimed at stirring up public discourse.

From a megaphone, UVic's Independent Media Club informed students that they were about to witness the opening of the "People's Library," complete with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Copies of Z Magazine, along with books on nuclear ethics and revolution, were placed around the drained fountain.

The club hopes to facilitate discussion, debate and critical thinking around the issues of peace, justice and the US' response to recent terrorist attacks.

Club member Erik Haensel stressed that IndyMedia isn't driven by a single agenda and that everyone is encouraged to publish their own points of view.

"It's a forum for everyone's thoughts and for the truth," Haensel said. Most students were content to observe, but only a few took up the offer to rant over the megaphone. A few IndyMedia members had some ideas as to why.

"IndyMedia is a new concept for everyone," said Jen Pelletier, a second-year Biology student." She said she hopes in the future more students will participate in the public forum.

Over fifty Independent Media Centres have sprung up in cities around the world since the Seattle protests against the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Victoria IMC was established over the summer. The Victoria IMC collective is currently looking for office space downtown and a location in the SUB.

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Starving students buoyed by food bank

by Heather Neale

photo by Darren Stewart

Sarah Webb surveys the stock at the SUB's food bank.

Help is here for starving students.

The UVic Food Bank is back in action with a new location this year and is more efficient than ever.

Under the direction of Sarah Webb, a UVic student and Director of Academics for the UVSS, the Food Bank has attracted five eager volunteers and caters to students in need of food.

"We believe that to feed your mind you have to feed your body so we help students out with that," said Webb.

To qualify for the food, students must have a valid student card and demonstrate a genuine need.

Volunteers, like Circle K's Roslyn Miller, provide drop-in hours to assess the specific needs of individuals while collecting general confidential statistics. These statistics go to national poverty organizations and Statistics Canada to help with awareness of poverty and, as Webb points out, "they stress the importance of a tuition freeze."

Higher tuition leaves less money for essentials, like food, and leaves students struggling to make ends meet, said Webb.

> It's easy to look at the victims as not trying hard enough to find work, but as we move more and more towards an American style government that worries more about the economy than our people, there are bound to be huge problems.
>
> *Reverend Al Tysick*

If the BC Liberals remove the freeze (as is widely believed) the more students may need to use the Food Bank.

This service lends a huge challenge to the government to have mercy on tuition fees, said Webb.

The Food Bank, as well as providing personalized hampers for clients, also stocks the Free Food Place upstairs opposite Cinecenta twice a week.

Anyone who wants to donate food to the cause can leave it there, she said.

The community is helping the Bank as well by donating fruit from private orchards, canned meat and other dried goods. Several local hotels drop-off personal items like shampoo and soap and the Food Bank also has a stash of condoms, toothpaste and other non-perishables. off the shelves and into the homes of people who need it rather than letting it go to waste.

"We try to avoid running into old things we're not sure about. We refer to these as 'mystery cans,'" Webb said.

The need for food is great and volume is key. In just a two-month period last year, near the end of the semester, when student loans were long gone, the bank had 476 visits.

Subtext helps out by collecting tips for the Bank, usually adding up to $40-50 a month, Circle K does a food drive every Halloween and students who are moving out at the end of the year often drop off their non-perishables.

The drop-in hours for the Food Bank are Tuesdays and Fridays from 12-2 in the SUB basement, room B017, but if these times are inconvenient, students can see Webb in the UVSS office anytime to book an appointment.

But it's not just students who are going hungry. Food banks in downtown Victoria, which service the entire community, are seeing an increase of hungry locals as well.

"It's easy to look at the victims as not trying hard enough to find work, but as we move more and more towards an American style government that worries more about the economy than our people, there are bound to be huge problems," said Reverend Al Tysick of the Open Door Food Bank on Pandora Street. "We get 400 people a day through here and often we run out of food."

Tysick went on to say that the degree of nutrition in the food, like the Kraft Dinner and tomato soup they distribute, hardly suffices for a healthy diet.

"As we do not have a decent opposition in government at present, the media is our only reliable opposition," Tysick said. "We have to make the public aware that people are starving and it is not their fault."

Victorians hold peace vigil on Sunday

by John Thompson

Gloom and a touch of rain didn't prevent Victorians from gathering at the Cenotaph to protest the US attack on Afghanistan last Sunday night.

Around 50 gathered for the peace vigil, where frustration was expressed at America's decision to begin bombing Afghanistan.

Alison Acker, a Victoria Raging Granny, said she grew up during wartime in England and is worried that US attacks will escalate the crisis. "War is not the answer," she said. "It's okay for Bush to say surgical strikes, but I honestly don't know how that's possible," she said.

The last time Mehdi Najar carried his placard for peace was ten years ago, when he protested the Gulf War in 1991. Now he's carrying it again. "That was Bush Sr.'s war, now it's Bush Jr.'s turn," he said.

Najar added that the public shouldn't be fooled by US plans to drop both bombs and humanitarian aid on Afghanistan.

"They bomb and kill people and then put food on their bodies," he said.

Milnor Alexander left the US in 1966 during the Vietnam war. She was a peace activist then and has been ever since. "I've been doing this for 50 years," she said.

Alexander is worried bombing will further inflame the region and said positive alternatives should be considered. "We should try to solve the reasons causing this: the hunger, the starvation, the homelessness," she said.

Joan Russow, former leader of the federal Green Party, said the US attacks don't have the unanimous support that President Bush claims.

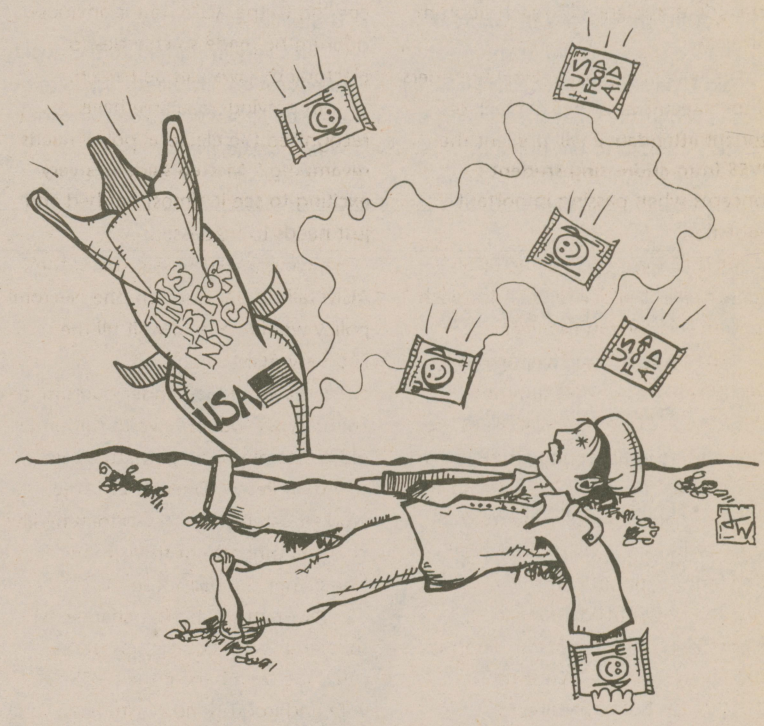
"It is not supported by the international community, it is a NATO war," she said. "Chretien cannot say Parliament supports it, since the Green and NDP parties oppose retaliation against Afghanistan."

Russow added that now is the time for citizens to take a stand. "People think everyone else in Canada supports this," she said.

Victoria activist Shane Calder said that local activities need to become bigger and more action oriented.

"We need to gum up the gears of war," he said.

The next Peace Walk will be held this Saturday at Victoria City Hall at noon.



graphic by Joanna Wong

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UVic students defend UBC prof

by David Ball

Students on this campus defend a UBC professor's right to make anti-US statements in the wake of the September 11 attacks, even if they do not agree with her.

"Aren't they paying her to be an educated mind?" said Chad Eliason, a UVic humanities student. "They should back up the professor for her thoughts. I would assume she's making an educated opinion."

At a conference last Monday Sunera Thobani, a women's studies professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC), sparked controversy when she criticized the United States in her speech.

"The path of U.S. foreign policy is soaked in blood," she said, adding that she sympathized with victims of the attacks in New York.

Thobani's comments have been criticized by sources in the media as "hateful" and UBC has come under pressure to discipline her. Students at UVic said UBC should not punish Thobani for her comments, although some said she should support her statement with evidence.

"UBC should give her more of a chance to explain what she meant," said UVic student, Rebecca Halls. "If she can justify what she's saying then she's entitled to her opinion."

Some students saw this as an important issue for the quality of their education.

These students said freedom of speech and diversity of opinions are very important for a well-balanced university education.

"If we only teach in a liberal democratic point of view we're not able to understand the full perspective in foreign politics," said university student, Maurita Prato. "There are many truths."

Other students, however, did not see any connection to the quality of their education, although they defended Thobani's right to make the statements.

> If she can justify what she's saying then she's entitled to her opinion.
>
> *Rebecca Halls*

Several of these students said professors should keep opinions to themselves and teach mainly from a textbook or set curriculum.

UBC, where Thobani teaches, believes this issue is an educational issue.

The university publicly defended Thobani against calls to have her disciplined, arguing that diversity and dialogue are vital to a university environment.

Eliason shares this opinion and agrees with UBC's support for Thobani.

"It's very important to the quality of education," he said. "If you're not allowed to say what you think then what good is free speech?"

UBC rallies around Thobani after backlash

By Ai Lin Choo

VANCOUVER (CUP) – A University of British Columbia professor's outspoken critique of American foreign policy has sparked a nation-wide furor, raising questions about the limits of free speech in Canada.

At last Monday's Women's Resistance Conference in Ottawa, women's studies professor Sunera Thobani said U.S. foreign policy is "soaked in blood." Thobani spoke out against violent U.S. retaliation to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and said not enough attention was being paid to the suffering U.S. aggression had inflicted on nations like Iraq.

"There can be no women's emancipation; in fact no liberation of any kind for women will be successful unless it seeks to transform the fundamental divide between the North and South, between Third World people and those in the West who are now calling themselves Americans," Thobani said.

Thobani received strong condemnation for her remarks from a number of politicians, including cabinet ministers.

Since the conference, UBC academics have rallied around Thobani, insisting she has a right to free expression.

Tineke Hellwig, chair of UBC's women studies program, said that although some faculty members do not necessarily agree with Thobani's statements, the department fully supports the professor. Hellwig said in cases like this, principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech must be upheld.

She added it was essential that people read and understand Thobani's remarks in the full context of her speech.

"UBC students are intelligent and bright, and what any person hears should be critiqued and discussed," Hellwig said. "It's essential that people see different sides to an issue."

> I'm so proud that someone stood up there, and with the anger that all of us are feeling, and said what needed to be said.
>
> *Emily Elder, a second-year arts student at UBC*

In a statement issued to the public, UBC vice-president academic and provost Barry McBride defended Thobani's right to free speech and called her remarks a "cornerstone of university culture."

"This is the stuff of democracy, a core value that our society seeks to protect in its struggle against terrorism," McBride wrote.

While many have called Thobani's remarks "anti-American," "hateful" and "disgraceful," a number of UBC students have disagreed with the labels.

"She's being demonized because she's a woman, and of colour, and a strong woman of colour," said Emily Elder, a second-year arts student. "Does she have the right to speak out? Of course she had the right to speak out. She's a politician, she's a woman, she's a person, she's a citizen of this country and every citizen of this country has a right to speak.

"I'm so proud that someone stood up there, and with the anger that all of us are feeling, and said what needed to be said."

"I don't think [Thobani] sounds hateful. I think she's just voicing another point of view and I think it's great that she has a voice," said Jen Shaw, a third-year women's studies student. "I think this has a lot to do with the fact that she's female and of colour. That's why they're attacking her, and that's why she got front page."

Other students said Thobani's comments were out of place.

Michelle Miller, a UBC graduate student from the United States, said Thobani's statement that the U.S. is more of a threat than terrorism was "absurd."

"I can understand where some of her anger and rage is coming from, but I think it's an ignorant and uninformed opinion," Miller said. "But I don't think she should not have spoken out. I think at this time, we need prophetic voices."

Student association president Erfan Kazemi said he felt the timing of Thobani's speech was "inappropriate," but conceded post-secondary institutions are places where opinions should be voiced and debated.

"I think the main thing is that we're in a society where our democracy is tested by what people say," Kazemi said.

Thobani has refused to comment since her speech on Monday. According to Hellwig, the department of women's studies supports her decision to keep a low profile.

"The terrorist attacks were terrible and I know that Thobani fully agrees with that, so one has to examine, investigate and be open to these issues," said Hellwig.

Faculty members have been asked to sign a letter in support of Thobani.

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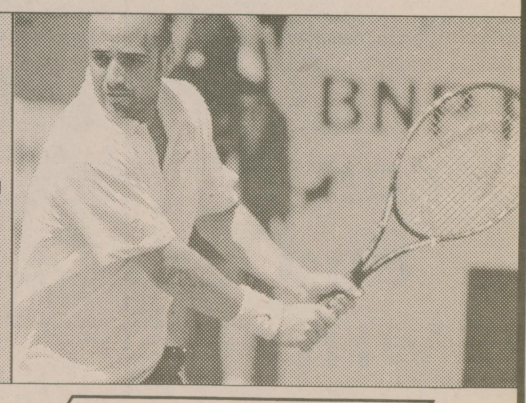

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Education brain drain tied to government policy

by Kevin Groves

Joel Streat is about to graduate from UVic with his teaching certificate and is considering where he'd like to work. He is weighing his options carefully.

Currently on his last practicum, the 24-year old education student said that he would like to stay in B.C. but due to the recent labour disputes between teachers and the provincial government he is also considering jobs outside of this province.

"I agree with the government that every child has the right to an education," Streat said. "But this labour dispute is about the government taking away a teacher's right to determine their work environment and it's not just about wages."

Streat said he originally supported the essential services legislation since he felt that a strike would hurt students more than the employer, but changed his mind after a union representative visited the elementary school he was on a practicum with last May.

"They said that a service is only essential if someone's life is in danger, which doesn't fit for teachers," Streat said. "So no one knows what potential job action will look like and it might even end up costing parents more money."

Many education students on campus echo Streat's concerns and some fear the provincial government's hardline stance on education will contribute to an exodus of young teachers from B.C. at a time when teacher shortages are nearing crisis levels.

"Initially, grads will want to stay in B.C., but they do have [student loan] debt and will consider other options," said Glenn Bedard, President of the Education Student's Association (EDSA). "About a third leave B.C. and right now I'm about fifty-fifty on it."

When asked if the tactics that the B.C. Teacher's Federation (BCTF) are using to improve working conditions are appropriate, Bedard expressed concern over the lack of public awareness on the issues involved in the current dispute and the misconceptions on the provincial union's wage proposals.

"The public has no idea what the workload for a teacher is," Bedard said. "If teachers were paid for the actual amount of hours worked, the budget would probably go through the roof."

Last August the provincial government passed Bill 18 which declared education an essential service. The bill claims that teachers still maintain the right to strike but stresses if a dispute threatens education programs the government can designate school facilities or services as essential. A decision would then be made to determine the essential service levels that must be maintained.

Since the end of last June teachers in B.C. have been without a contract. After nearly three months at the bargaining table little progress has been made.

Starting Oct. 9 the BCTF conducted its first province-wide strike vote in its entire 85-year history. The results are expected to be in Oct. 17 but are projected to show overwhelming support for strike action.

Once approval for a strike is given, the union and the employer will attend a Labour Relations Board hearing to determine what the term "essential service" means and what services will be deemed essential.

This hearing will then be followed by a 45-day cooling off period similar to that imposed by the government in the nurse's strike. After that, job action seems likely.

Sources within the B.C. Public School Employer's Association (PSEA) said lengthy labour talks with the BCTF are not uncommon.

"Teacher bargaining is not unusual and the talks are proceeding," said Hugh Finlayson, executive director of the PSEA. "The unions believe that by striking they'll put pressure on the employer and naturally we'd rather keep them at the table."

Finlayson also stressed that the essential services legislation does not take away teacher's collective bargaining rights.

"What we're suggesting is that there be flexibility in the numbers of students and teachers," Finlayson said. "The school system needs to be changed and some of the provisions of the former agreement have been in place since the early 1990s."

But union leaders continue to express discontent with the way the government has been approaching labour relations at the bargaining table.

"The union has a contract proposal which will provide a less stressful working environment for teachers," said Mike Hayes, president of the Saanich Teacher's Association. "The employer's contract will erode teacher's working conditions, student's learning environment and prevent teachers from getting fair wages for services provided."

Currently, entrance level salaries for teacher's in B.C. are $37,700 per year, about $11,500 less than their counterparts in Ontario and about $2100 less than teachers in Alberta. All salaries noted are before taxes.

The average amount of personal income spent by teachers on learning materials in B.C. is $1095 while the average amount nationally is $430. On average every teacher in B.C. works 51 hours per week.

Hayes said that relations with the provincial government have soured over the last few months due to misconceptions about the union's initial 34 per cent wage proposal quoted in the mainstream media. He cited a recent statement made by Finance Minister Gary Collins characterizing the wage proposal as "insane."

"Our proposal is an opening position that you go to the table with, and it is not where you end negotiations," Hayes said. "As for my response to Gary Collins: was it insane to grant a wage increase to deputy ministers?"

Karen Hearse, President of the Greater Victoria Teacher's Association (GVTA) added that Collins' comment might have been an intentional move to create public antipathy toward teacher unions.

"Frankly, Minister Collins has no business in our negotiations process, but we can certainly see how the employer would try and lowball our offer as a result," Hearse said.

Finance Minister Gary Collins was in Penticton last week and could not be reached for comment.

Hayes also pointed to the often-quoted belief that 4 million teaching days have been lost in the last nine years due to strike action by teachers. He said that if the B.C. Liberals used the same method to compile the number of days taught by teachers, the result would be in excess of 1 billion days.

"[The 4 million days] amounts to maybe about half an hour per student," Hayes said. "You are more likely to lose instruction time to sick days and vacations than strikes."

Further stress on the negotiations was made last Wednesday when the Finance Minister indicated that health care and education spending would be frozen until 2004/05, which critics say breaks the provincial government's commitment to protect these areas of public spending.

"It's a despicable thing to do," Hayes said. "Rather than take any action that restores optimism, the B.C. Liberals are creating an atmosphere of depression and anxiety among public servants."

Now that a strike seems inevitable the question remains about what form it will take.

Hearse said that the most likely approach by the union will be a two-tier strike, where instruction may only be made in certain classes and extracurricular activities, followed by a rotating strike or full withdrawal of services.

"If there is going to be a strike most likely certain districts or schools could go on strike for different areas," she said.

photo by Kevin Groves

Joel Streat will soon work at an elementary school not unlike this one. The only question is where.

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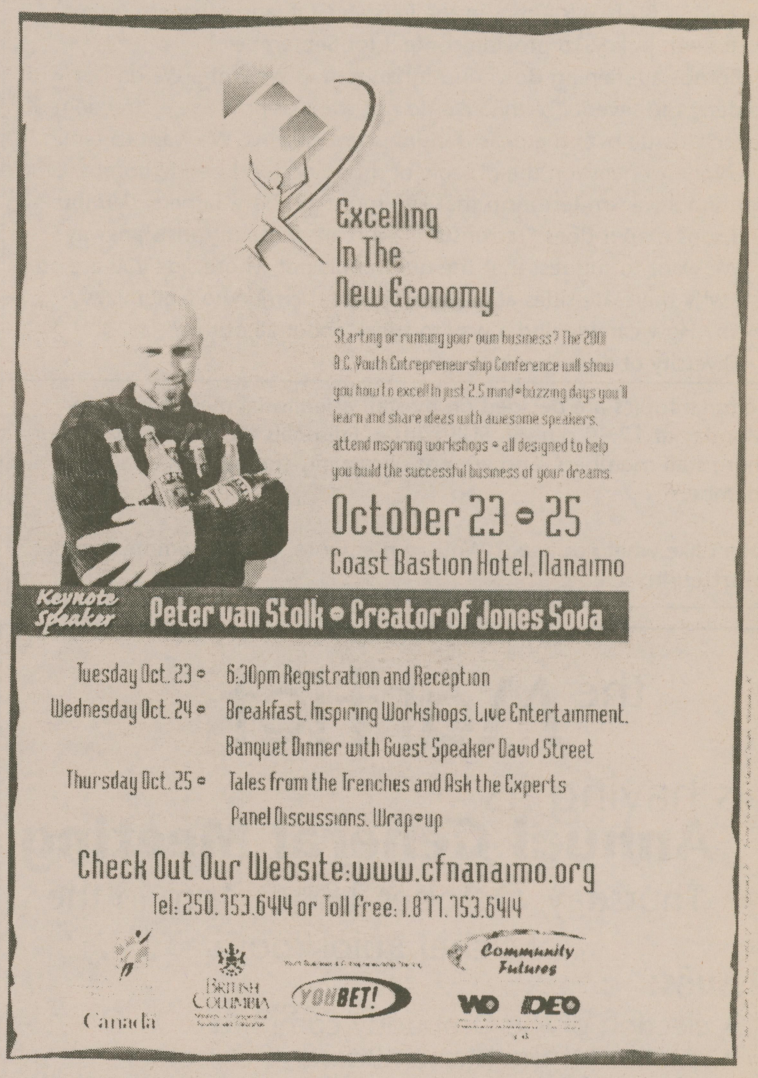
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EDITORIAL

Diversity of discourse

"Today in the world, the United States is the most dangerous and the most powerful global force unleashing horrific levels of violence."

When Sunera Thobani made these comments a week ago she was immediately condemned by the media, her "allies" at the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and anyone else threatened by a voice of dissent. She was likened to a terrorist and depicted on the front page of the Vancouver Sun with an angry face and wild eyes.

Now that the bombs have begun to fall we must ask ourselves if Thobani was not more accurate than anyone was willing to admit at the time. Surely bombing masses of fleeing refugees, oppressed for years by the Taliban and now by US foreign policy, also unleashes horrific violence.

We should be horrified that this violence is couched as "humanitarian bombing," accompanied by the dropping of happy-face-marked aid packages. As bombs and bread rain down on far-away Afghanistan, washing away terrorists in one deluge and poverty in another, we in the West try to make sense of Bush's (il)logic and try to give voice to these horrific acts laden with contradictions.

But when we speak, what happens?

Thobani's analysis was called "hateful, destructive and very disturbing" by Premier Gordon Campbell. Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day said those who support her comments are propagating hatred.

Bill Maher's television show "Politically Incorrect" was cancelled for several days after stating that Americans, not the terrorists who stayed in the airplanes when they hit the World Trade Center and Pentagon, are cowards for dropping cruise missiles from 2000 miles away. Even after Maher issued an apology for his comments, advertisers withdrew their support. State censorship wasn't required to quiet Maher – having Sears, Roebuck and FedEx pull their ads was enough to put the show on hold.

Dissent has become a casualty in America's new war. Last week when Thobani described US foreign policy as "soaked in blood," politicians and media pundits asked, "Is she allowed to say this?" rather than raise legitimate questions about America's dark history.

We still appear to have our cherished civil liberties, like freedom of expression, but these days they are about as useful as the aid packages that drop into impact craters after the bombs have detonated. We supposedly have the right to speak, but when we voice concern about violent and horrific acts we are silenced.

When Bush said to the world that we are either with the US or with the terrorists, dissent was further silenced.

It is crucial that we continue to legitimize a space for public discourse. Thobani is not a terrorist because she publicly disagrees with the way the US has conducted themselves. The media are not terrorists for linking Bush Sr.'s antics in the Persian Gulf, and other strong-arm US foriegn policy, to provide context for September 11.

Bombs are raining down in Afghanistan as we write. We do not wish to deny the severity of this. We do not want to privilege a "freedom of speech" issue over the deaths of innocent citizens. We want to remind everyone to question the (il)logic of dropping food beside bombs, of fighting a war on terrorism that kills more mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons than it does "terrorists" – who are these terrorists anyway?

We want to suggest that the question is not whose side you are on, but why there are sides at all? Who made them? Who legitimizes them? How can we find a way to speak about all of this?

Diversity of discourse is the answer.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**

the Martlet

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Thursday, October 18th at 4pm in the Michèl Pujol room

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- election of the Ombuddy committee
- election of the Martlet Board of Directors
- ad boycott list
- ratification of the MPS budget
- other tabled motions from the SAGM

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SOAPBOX

Bombs for peace and bucks

by Ben Isitt

The maple trees on the UVic campus slowly turn from green to brown. The mild Pacific breeze shelters us from the frigid chill to the East. Students dig in their heels for mid-terms, papers, labs, and the frenzied semester that lies ahead.

But on the other side of the globe Canadian forces are poised to wage war.

Last Sunday the United States and Britain dropped bombs over Afghanistan. Within hours, Prime Minister Chretien pledged 2000 soldiers, several hundred spies, a handful of warships and an array of aircraft to George Bush's principled "war on terrorism."

Parliament was never convened. In grand Canadian fashion one man was empowered to commit a nation of 30 million people to what could become the Third World War.

All the "humanitarian" food drops in the world cannot help a pile of charred Afghan corpses.

So much for democracy. While soft calls of restraint come from the NDP on the left and the Canadian Alliance clamours for more and more guns, students and citizens across the country are left feeling confused and afraid.

"Mustn't we stand up to Osama bin Laden?" they insist. "Can terrorism be left unopposed?"

These are legimitate concerns. If bin Laden or his associates in the al-Queda organisation were responsible for the loss of innocent life on Sept. 11, justice must prevail.

But does justice demand the death of innocent Afghan civilians? Does justice demand the destruction of water, sewage and electrical infrastructure in the country? Does justice demand massive hardship in Afghanistan and terrifying instability globally?

And all responsible citizens must ask themselves who benefits from war? It may sound crass, conspiratorial or just plain mad, but some people want war because they will grow rich off of it.

Bombs and jets and guns do not manufacture themselves. Canadian naval vessels will not travel by wind power to the Indian Ocean. And so oil and munitions companies will see their profit margins soar. If the history of past conflicts is any measure, stock markets across North America and the western world will surge. For some, war means money. Lots of it.

For others, it means the death of thousands of innocent people.

I cannot consent to this madness. Call me a peacenik, a traitor, an anarchist, a communist and all things strange and scary, but war and militarism have gone on long enough.

McDonald's, Marlboro, Coca-Cola, Walmart, Gatorade, the Gap and "Survivor" can no longer be imposed on the rest of the world through the barrel of the gun. Scarce resources and cheap labour from the hinterlands can no longer fuel the engines of western industry.

Citizens in affluent nations must break their reliance on sweatshops and cash crops from Indonesia to Brazil and come to realize that a better, brighter future can be built with less material wealth.

Only then will terrorism be nipped in the bud. Because as long as the poor people of the earth are beaten down and robbed so we may prosper, anger and insanity will prevail.

Canadians must also turn their attention to the homefront. This conflict will be used as a smokescreen to rob us of our hard-won civil liberties and rollback social spending. The war against people of colour is being waged in cities and towns across the land, with a mosque in Montreal aflame and UVic students subjected to racist slurs.

We are told that tuition must rise, healthcare must be privatised, civil servants must be laid off and welfare must be cut. BC Hydro, BC Ferries and ICBC must be sold off, the cheerleaders of corporate capitalism shout.

And yet there always seems to be money for war.

Stand up and be counted... lest we glance over the tops of those lofty maples and see only that eternal flash – BOOM.

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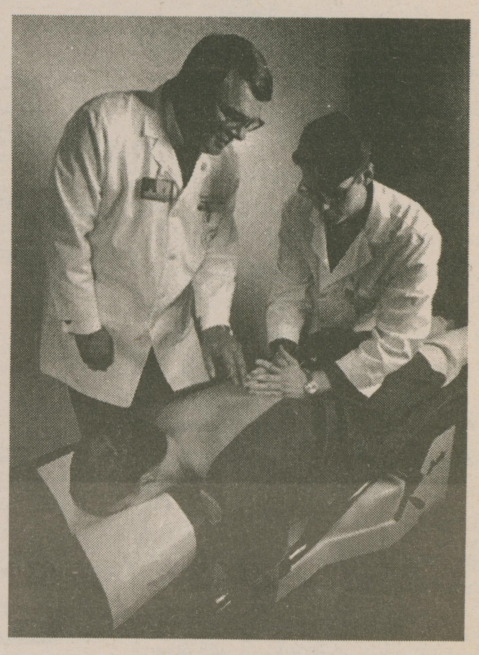

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STUDENT VOICE

Student says Turpin's silence speaks

by Ingmar Lee

On the morning of Sept. 11, UVic president David Turpin immediately organized a vigil on behalf of the victims of the attacks on the US. Turpin and the Interfaith chaplains dutifully appeared and offered statements and condolences to a crowd of several hundred people. It is good that the university was willing and able to mobilize so quickly and offer an opportunity to gather, remember and grieve for those killed in these violent attacks. There is, however, a disturbing, latent seed of hypocrisy and racism deeply embedded in that event.

During the vigil we were asked to pause for five minutes and find a stranger in the crowd to talk to. I approached president Turpin and told him of my initial reaction to the terrible news that came that morning. It had occurred to me that these attacks on the symbols of the American military/industrial complex might finally focus world attention on the endless litany of injustices and atrocities being inflicted all around the world by these enormous institutions. Perhaps this would finally hammer home the message that the American dream has been built on the oppression of others. I asked him why the university administration had never thought to call any spontaneous gatherings to recognize the countless innocent victims of US foreign policy. Does our university only officially mourn for America's innocent victims?

All around the globe the US has been inflicting violence, propagating wars, interfering with governments, and proliferating vicious weaponry, but only now that the inevitable violence spawned by these activities has hit home, has the war been made official. The acts of September 11th were NOT terrorism, – at least not any different than the regular terrorism of war.

But they were an act of war – part of a war that the US has been involved in for decades. Not having the spectacular equipment and stupendous funding of the US military, the opponent has had to conduct its operations in a more personal, direct fashion. The only thing that makes this attack any different from those that are regularly inflicted on innocent people around the world by the American miltary/industrial complex, is that it finally hit home.

I have attended a number of discussions and other events at UVic over the past few weeks, and I'm of the firm belief that a majority of the students and faculty can see beyond the hyped-up jingoism, posturing and rhetoric, and recognize that a military approach to this problem will never bring about a peaceful resolution to this crisis. After all, annual multi-trillion-dollar US military funding was useless in protecting Americans from this kind of retaliation. Surely the biggest threat to global peace and security are the policies of the war-mongering George Bush administration.

Two weeks ago I wrote to president Turpin asking him to initiate another vigil – this time so that the UVic community could express their concern and sympathy for the people in the world who are NOW suffering extreme terror as a consequence of these recent terrible acts. By this, I especially mean the innocent millions of people in Afghanistan who are suffering an appalling retaliation for which they have no responsibility.

Their beautiful country has been used for superpower war for 20 years and is already utterly shattered in every way. A humanitarian crisis of unprecedented scale is imminent. We need to express this concern and sympathy officially, not only to show our support to the peaceful people of Afghanistan, but also as a gesture of support to our Victoria Muslim community, both on and off campus. So far, president Turpin hasn't bothered to reply.

LETTERS

Freedom of speech for Thobani
This letter is in response to Ms. Thobani's recent tirade against lack of female emancipation and her mystifying correlation with U.S. retaliation to September 11.

Ms. Thobani, when we see the barbarism, the attrocities committed against women in Afghanistan, and the mass murder of peaceful working men and women in the former World Trade Center, we have an overwhelming moral responsibility to attempt to correct the situation. We have the resources.

The Taliban at first was a welcome administration to a region previously ungovernable. They went too far. I'm sure, Ms. Thobani, that you are familiar with the conditions Afghani women have been subjected to. This is a situation that cannot be ignored, or pursued through diplomacy.

While I dismiss your rant as fear-fuelled, lunatic-fringe hysteria, I am fully pepared to defend your right to say it, and would sacrifice my life defending your freedom of speech.

Jamie Cunningham

What's up with the BaG?
With the fine tradition of student publications at UVic I have to ask: What's up with the BaG? In my opinion, the latest issue was the weakest I have read. Most of the stories were senseless, stupid, or plain dumb. There was even a complaint about class over crowding. Isn't that the kind of stuff that belongs in the Martlett? It just wasn't the strange, bizarre, or irate rantings commonly associated with the BaG. Okay, the story about the paratrooper monkey death-squads was funny but one acticle cannot save its sorry state. I think the BaG needs better organization; more like the Martlett, don't you think?

c g hooper

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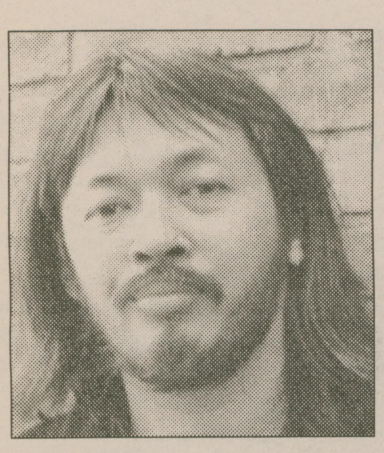


Journalism, literature and truth

One of Indonesia's most prevalent and provocative fiction writers risks backlash in his passion for truth in print.

by Darren Stewart

Indonesian writer Seno Gumira Ajidarma's work seems to contradict his personality and philosophy.

He said he's not an advocate for social change yet his passion for truth and his right to print it put him at constant risk in the repressive climate at home.

"I'm not a heroic guy," he said. "I'm not defending anybody. But every time somebody warns me to shut my mouth I tell them that can't happen and I open it. I fight for that."

Ajidarma is in Victoria to speak to students and other writers about his experience as a journalist and fiction writer in the political and cultural situation in his home country.

He was born in Boston but moved to Yojakarta, Indonesia, when he was four. Both his parents are professors and he currently works as a creative writing and film instructor at the Jakarta Arts Institute.

In person Ajidarma is quiet, thoughtful and polite. He thinks carefully before each sentence and when he speaks he is precise.

In print he's a maverick.

Ajidarma said he's not out to save the world or make it a better place but he considers censorship, even in Indonesia's timid culture, an inexcusable affront.

"Every time [I'm censored] I feel like somebody has come onto my own land to disturb me," he said.

Indonesia is still a country in turmoil despite holding a democratic election in 1999 after Suharto's 40-year semi-dictatorship rule. Indonesians call the past three years the reformation period and hold some optimism after decades of war and political uncertainty.

Ajidarma said despite stability brought by the new government, the people of his country have been repressed for so long they still cannot think or express themselves freely.

"We're like fish swimming around a polluted pond," he said. "It's the only thing we know. We've seen wars and violence for so long it's the only language we know."

But the tone of Ajidarma's work is an exception.

He started writing after he joined a theatre group in high school in 1974 that performed a radical play about incidents in East Timor.

"It was more intelligent not just something aesthetic, like painting a beautiful picture," he said.

He found out quickly that he couldn't act, but was hooked on the thrill of expressing truth, especially unpopular truth. He began writing plays. Now he experiments with journalism and fiction and weaves truth and fact into literature. After being fired from his post at a major magazine for reporting on incidents in East Timor, he published a collection of short stories involving the same content.

"I cannot say it is less dangerous but there are more possibilities with fiction," he said.

He may weave fact into the fabric of his short stories or plays or he may write straight journalism. He writes with clarity about atrocities in East Timor carried out by the Indonesian military, the chain murders of Islamic scholars in East Java, the radical student movements in Jakarta and incidents of extreme cruelty after religious uprisings in Aceh. He writes about politically sensitive issues with teeth but is the first to admit that he's more driven by a stubborn need to express himself and to excercise the right to tell truth, than a desire to have the truth known.

"Maybe I'm arrogant," he said, pausing to think for a moment. "I do feel sad for the people. The government changes, but not culture, not habit."

He believes education could be the solution to his country's woes but, while he's conscious of the educational value of his work, he said he does not directly strive to educate. His work is simply not about that.

"I just write; write things that are important," he said.

He's obsessed with pop culture as a means to free expression and recently became interested in comics as a means to convey truth and political thought.

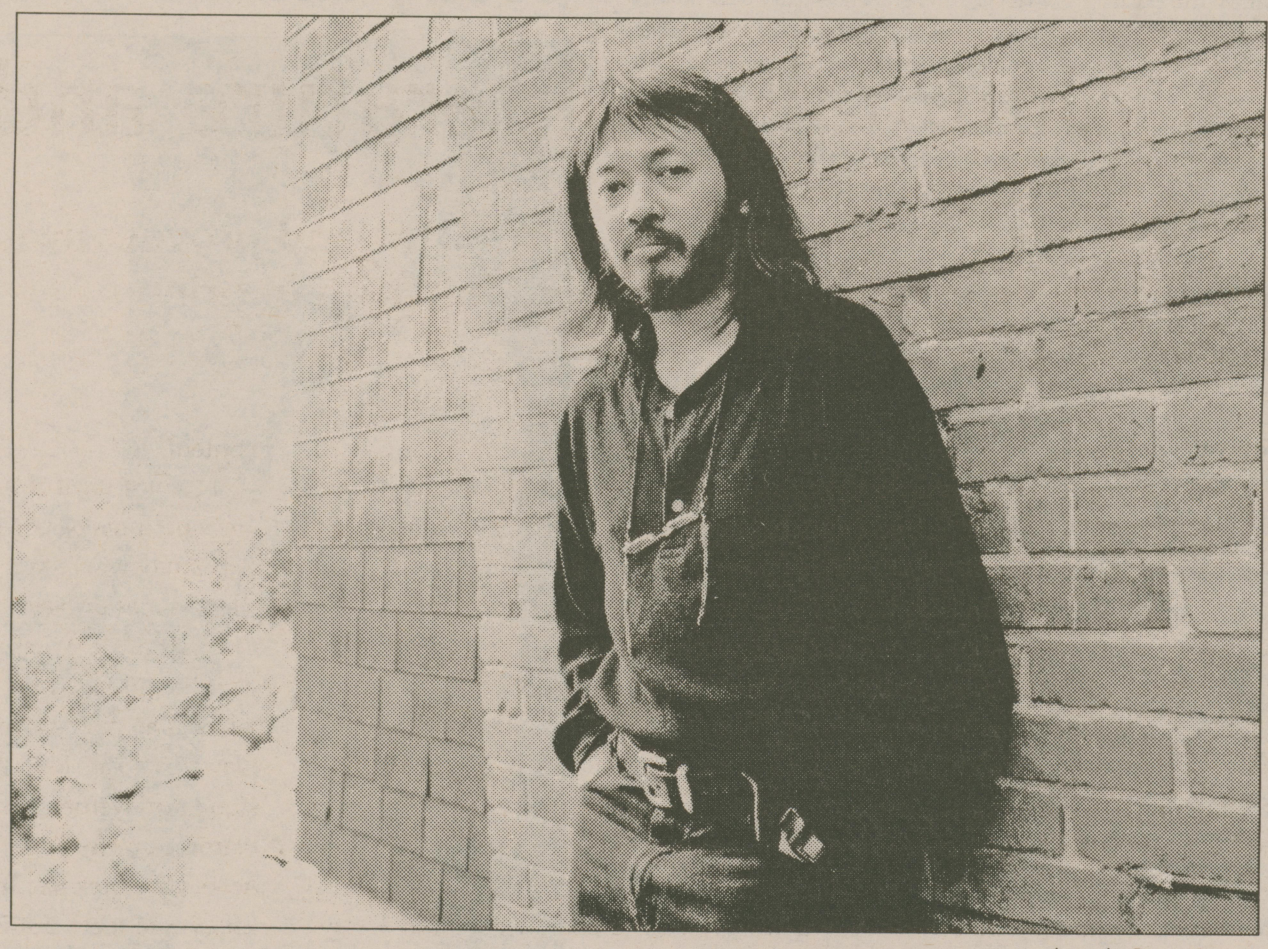
Thanks to people like Ajidarma things in Indonesia are improving, but he said the climate is far from free. The publishers recently folded the magazine he edited when employees talked of unionizing. Muslim fundamentalists are sensitive to work that pushes the status quo and they often threaten to sue or worse when he writes.

"Still, you never know what's going to happen when you write," he said. "There's still also the possibility the military will react. You never criticize the military."

"You just don't know who are friends and who are enemies," he added. "Sometimes it's too close."

The contradiction in Ajidarma's work comes only from the context he's forced to work in. He's not an activist, rather, an artist and a journalist in a difficult climate.

Seno Ajidarma will present "Journalism In Indonesia Today" on Monday, October 15 in MacLaurin D116 at 7:30 p.m.



photos by Darren Stewart

Journalism is bound by a thousand and one restraints, from business concerns to politics, from becoming itself, but the restraint on literature is only one's own honesty. Books can be banned, but the truth and literature are part of the very air we breathe, they can't be taken to court and they can't be stopped.

Covering up the facts is a political act, covering up the truth is one of the greatest acts of stupidity that human beings can commit.

– from Ajidarma's collected essays *When Journalism is Silenced, Literature Must Speak*

image provided

Mix Master Mike cuts faster

Mix Master Mike and Swollen Members
October 8 @ Legends

by Matt Jarry

Really, I mean what the hell do you say about a show like this? Yeah dude, it was dope! Yeah, yeah it was sooo phat! Mike and the Members dropped the mad beats yo!

No, no, no... it was more than that. This show was a platform for the gathering of like-minded people who came out to appreciate and expand their understanding of hip-hop culture. The Swollen Members and Mix Master Mike put on an unforgettable show for us here in Victoria.

The vibe was really tight, I mean we all hung off every word, every beat, mesmerized by the talent before our eyes. Vancouver-based 'S&M' radiated presence, you could literally feel them enter onto the stage, even if you were standing at Legends' back-bar.

Swollen Members are one duo that I always said to myself, "I'll wait for the right time to see these guys" – Monday, October 8 was it. They really put on an impressive show.

Maybe they felt they needed to make up for their last appearance when their set was cut short due to a bomb threat, or maybe they were really amped to play in Victoria. Whatever the case, the crowd was really pumped and gave full respect to our Members, who in turn were slappin' skins and givin' love to all their fans.

Listening to tracks like "Lady Venom," "Deep End," "S&M on the Rocks" or "Switchblade" on a disk or on the radio is all good but really, with Legends PA being as good as it is, the live sound really takes the music up a better level.

Madchild and Prevail definitely blew up the spot, and these guys weren't even the headliners!

Being Mike's third time to Victoria in the last three years, he showed and maintained his importance to the hip-hop community. He didn't cease to amaze the crowd with his knowledge of the mechanics of turntablism.

Even so, this was my third time seeing him and I don't really think it was the best.

Now don't get me wrong, his skills are unprecedented, but he seemed rushed. He flew through each plate as though he were on some sort of schedule where he was only allowed to spin a forty-five minute set and had to fly out on the next plane after the show. His hands and head were bobbin' so fast I was surprised he didn't short-circuit his mixer from the sweat pouring from his head.

I don't want this review on Mike's show to sound like he put on a bad set because it was by far from that.

What I heard come from the two Vestax tables surprised me. I haven't heard the fusion of hip-hop tracks from the likes of the B-Boys and Deltron mixed in with tracks from Rage Against the Machine and Led Zeppelin since DJ Z-Trip was last in town. Of course then there was the crazy tactics of beat-juggling, scratching and warping the vinyl's surface to create the most unnatural sounds to ever come from a record.

I must say that I'm sorry for all those people who were stuck outside and couldn't make it into the sold-out show, really you should have gotten on top of your game and had your shit together earlier. Peace.

photo by Matt Jarry

Because nobody can do it like Mix Master Mike can.

An evening of music, storytelling, poetry and indigenous rhythms

photo by Horia Coman

by Jeff Werner

After a cover of Eric Clapton's "Brown Skinned Girl," and The Who's "My Reservation," Shis'ka Bob asked the crowd of 15 aboriginal and white people what was the biggest influence on Native culture.

Someone said alcohol, but Shis'ka Bob, a folk singing, improv stand-up of sorts who thought as a child that hide-a-beds were made by Haidas, said 1492.

"White people have had the biggest influence on Native culture," said Shis'ka Bob, a resourceful Shis'ka Nation member who has lived on the streets.

"Native songs in general pay tribute to animals, but not many songs are about white people. It's something decidedly lacking in our songs."

Shis'ka Bob was just one of about a dozen storytellers, poets and music performers at last Saturday's Indigenous Rhythms held in the SUB and organized by the UVic Native Student Union.

Contrast defined the four-hour evening of storytelling, music and poetry: from the sterile fluorescent lights of the Michèle Pujol room and the two dozen empty seats, to the surplus of coffee and juice, and the carefree kids running around this aboriginal talent show.

The presenters were from all over Canada and thanked the gathering and the members of the island's Coast Salish Nation for accepting their residence on this land.

Jusquan (alias Amanda Bedard) is a UVic student and a visitor to Coast Salish land who sang at the event. Her youth and her persistent smile, even while singing, were accompanied by her tall cone hat and native drum.

She sang a song of mourning for a respected and talented member of her community who recently died.

"This is why I am studying at university, to be as much as I can like him," said Jusquan.

Gordon de Frane was one of the organizers of the event as well as a storyteller. He sat with an elderly woman and said (with a straight face) that the event's purpose was to reclaim native land. He waited a few seconds before laughing.

Humour was a big factor through out the evening.

"It's an opportunity to focus on aboriginal talent on campus and interact with non-native people," said de Frane, a Chemainus/Penalakut band member.

Indigenous Rhythms featured aboriginals living in Victoria who are affected by current events and live in the same world as the majority of whites on campus.

Janet Marie Rogers, another poet at the event, read straightforward Mohawk Poems. One was a short prose of love, "written after a bad breakfast in Whistler," another described September 11, "special report/this just in," and another compared airplanes to fallen angels.

Equally ear-catching was a second year UVic student, of Icelandic, Chilean and Haida decent, with a story, punctuated by a three-year-old girl clinging to her leg, about a non-native man who wriggled his way onto her tribe's council and acted as a pawn for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

A man who "compensated for his lack of a soul with visits to the tanning salon," said Joanna, the storyteller. "The reincarnation of Joseph Trutch."

Indigenous Rhythms is an annual event.

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Local unicycler on the big screen

by Darren Stewart

Two films featuring the single-wheel feats of local unicyclist Kris Holm will play at the university this Friday night.

Holm is a household name in extreme sports circles and is widely believed to be the most daring unicycler in the world. Holm is originally from Victoria but now attending UBC.

First up is Unizaba, a short film never been shown on the big screen. Victoria filmmaker Sean White documented Holm's three-hour descent on a unicycle down El Pico de Orizaba, North America's third highest mountain.

"It's great filming Kris because he's so extreme that pretty much anything you shoot has never been shot before," said White.

The short film was selected as a finalist in this year's Banff Film Festival and will be a pilot for a series with National Geographic Television.

Holm said he reached speeds during the making of the film that he's never gone on a unicycle before.

"There were definately spots where it would not have been a good idea to fall," he said. "I could have gone for a very very long tumble."

The second film is the Victoria premiere of Fat Tire Fury - Disorder II the sequel to the first phenomenally successful mountain bike film from Nelson filmmaker Derek Westerlund. This full-length film features mountain bike mania from all over the world and follows up the original genre defining classic. Holm skirts death in the film by riding his unicycle along the railing of the Burrard Street Bridge in Vancouver. Holm will host the event on his unicycle Friday, October 12 at the David Lam Auditorium at UVic.

Advance Tickets are $10 and are available at Neverland Cycle at 744-3825 or at the door. Showtime is 7:00 p.m.

Photo by Sean White

Watch Kris Holm's dangerous single-wheel descent of El Pico de Orizaba, North America's third highest peak. Holm said it was just one of his feats that has never been attempted on a unicycle.

Viva Aquaviva in Market Square

photo provided

by Simon Rolston

John Acquaviva, Canada's crown prince of house music, dropped in at Victoria's Sweetwaters Niteclub for a short but sweet two-hour set.

On October 3, Acquaviva's three turntables curled out flavourful beats and funky rhythms that have developed an international reputation. He looked calm, cool and collected: the image of a man playing a beat laden game of chess.

Although Sweetwaters Niteclub was anything but full, the music remained distinctly high class and chunky.

John Acquaviva has been spinning records for over 20 years and he's developed a solid reputation as a world class DJ and producer. His production portfolio boasts a rich history that evolved from a partnership with producer and dj Richie Hawtin.

"I started hanging out in the scene during the disco days. Then the club scene went really underground in the eighties and then it came out of the eighties and techno was one of the big things to come out of it. Being close to Detroit and knowing the guys and being a part of the scene, it did really well for us," he said.

Their first label, Plus 8 records, led to future successes with Definitive and Probe, Minus and a web distribution company called Intelligent. Their individual successes as djs have placed them beyond simply doing it well: they did it better.

John Acquaviva has seen techno move from underground to rock-star status.

Has the music suffered any growing pains?

"The music ís definitely better because on the one hand the technology is more affordable. A lot of the people making electronic music in the eighties (found that) it was still kind of expensive and a bit tedious to make, but a lot of people loved it and felt that it was a feature. So, now that technology is more affordable, more music is being made than ever. There ís a lot of great music," said Acquavivas.

Unfortunately, Acquavivas' set was only heard by a small group of people: enough to make dancing enjoyable, but unfortunately the numbers expected did not attend.

The lack of bodies could have been the result of a number of things: ticket prices were high for a Wednesday night (15-20$); Sweetwaters' Tuesday nights are already a favourite; the Market Square venue advertised had to be canceled.

Regardless, it was a pleasure to watch John Acquaviva throw down even if it was only for two hours. He is, after all, a man on the move: his upcoming October events include Vancouver, Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Croatia, Germany, Paris and more.

If you get another chance...don't miss him.

MARGOT KIDDER TRACEY A. LEIGH AMY LOVE

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

BY EVE ENSLER

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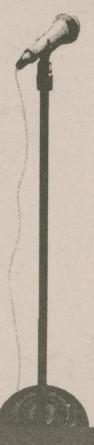

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CD REVIEWS

Allison Crowe
6 songs

by Katrina Sark
Strong voice. A skillful hand running over the piano keys. Jazzy bass. Drum beat that makes your body want to move. *6 Songs* is a glimpse of a rosy dawn over the ocean when driving along Dallas Road. It is the turquoise water mingling the pebbles. It is also the dark blue water clear by midnight. This is the image you get at first sight. At second glance you see two worlds - the dreamy world of oceans, skies, hope and fantasy – and the other world, resembling reality, filled with thoughts, feelings, expectations, even anger.

Somewhere a broken heart, sometime a star falling, somehow finding a path. It's a glimpse worth taking if you are one of those people who get moved by sunsets, the sound of the waves, and ocean breeze. So plunge in. Allison Crowe is performing in Victoria on October 13 at the Victoria Conservatory of Music (907 Pandora Avenue) at 8 p.m. (Drive along Dallas just before the show and take a glimpse – you will see what I mean.)

Staggered Crossing
Staggered Crossing

by Erin O'Brien
When I heard the song "A Million Works of Art" on the radio I said to myself, "What? New music that's good?" Okay, so I'm a little bit jaded about the state of rock music these days, what with the choice between goof-pop-punk and rip-offs of rip-offs of Pearl Jam. Don't get me wrong. Staggered Crossing is not the answer to all my prayers. This is not progressive rock. If anything it leans in the direction of roots rock, which in itself is refreshing. It's melodic, it's catchy, it's sincere, and it rocks.

I was so infected by "A Million Works of Art" that I called up the Q and asked who did the song so I could buy their album and hear it a thousand times. I wasn't disappointed. On hearing the whole album I couldn't help drawing a comparison to Counting Crows. And not just because of the repetition of the phrases 'round here' and 'sha-la-la-la' in some choruses. It's similar music, mainly on the mellow side with plaintive guitar and deep, strong, sincere vocals, backed up by piano and occasionally harmonica. But whereas that mellow deep sincerity is Counting Crows' strength, Staggered Crossing prove themselves to be an accomplished rock band when they rock a little harder and get a bit funky, like in their first single "Further Again," which perhaps has a touch of Big Sugar influence (who they've opened for in a recent Victoria concert).

Counting Crows comparisons notwithstanding, Staggered Crossing is no *August And Everything After*. While overall the songwriting is fairly solid, it has its weaknesses. It has a slight tendency towards sentimentality. And the occasional cliché finds its way into the lyrics.

I had intended to elaborate more on the album's weaknesses, but goddamn, as I listen to it again while writing, I realize these songs have gotten under my skin. Even "Next of Kin," which I originally wrote off as sappy and cheesy, is starting to grow on me. That piano music is really nice.

This album is not for everyone. These songs are not destined for top ten lists. And if you think Counting Crows are sentimental crap, you have no taste. . . oops, uh, I mean, you should probably skip over Staggered Crossing. And if you're looking for perfection, save your money. The band has some room to grow. But if you're into music with a good balance of rock and emotion, and promising bands that might just be great one day, check this album out. I for one will be keeping an eye out for their next album.

Chris Sheppard
Club Cutz 505

by Suzanne Beaubien
Most techno makes me feel slightly anxious, like I'm being chased so I listen to it only when I run, to motivate me. Chris Sheppard's annoying accent aside, his new release *Chris Sheppard's Club Cutz 505* is mostly good, always danceable and (lucky me) definitely non-predatory. He eases you into the idea of listening to techno slowly.

The first few songs are groovy, mellow beats, with Latin, African and hip hop funk influences. Upping the pace are a number of old school songs remixed into catchy club tunes, mostly odd choices, like U2's "New Year's Day" and Hall & Oates "I Can't Go For That." Track nine, the beautifully hypnotic "Here with Me" featuring Dido, was my favourite and unfortunately the last of the good songs.

The second half of the album is disappointing: Tracks 10 through 18 are one long, relentless blur of used-out techno beats with sappy female vocals layered on top. Albums like this are the reason that cds were invented; you can skip the crap and get right to the good stuff.

Blink 182
Take Off Your Pants and Jacket

by Suzanne Beaubien
The Peter Pans of mainstream punk, Blink 182, still haven't grown up and that's just fine with me.

After listening to their new album *Take Off Your Pants and Jacket* I was left with the suspicious feeling that I had heard all of these songs a million times before. Come to think of it, I have, on their last two cds. Their new release picks up where they left off with *Enema of the State* and *Dude Ranch*. No surprises, no evolution, just more boppy punk songs about girls, partying and causing a ruckus. No matter though, I still felt like driving around with friends on a Saturday night and toilet papering someone's trees. They don't try to be anything they're not, they're just doing what they do best, having a good time.

Not just any gangsta' movie

by Suzanne Beaubien

The first day at a new job can be hard. You want to impress your new boss, so you do anything they say despite your reservations. This proves especially true for Jake Hoyt (Ethan Hawke), rookie police officer new to the East LA narcotics beat.

Jake desperately wants to make detective one day and hopes to climb the bureaucratic ladder by busting the big guys with the baddest cop on the beat, multiple gun-toting, streetwise veteran Alonzo Harris (Denzel Washington). Jake has one day to prove himself if he hopes to escape the mundane world of valley cop and glorified ticket writer.

Luckily for Jake he wins his new boss' favour quickly. He spends the morning smoking PCP, drinking and driving, and sleeping off his buzz while crooked-cop Alonzo has a mid-day quickie. By noon Jake is feeling pretty comfortable; under the tutelage of Alonzo he has learned that narcotics officers in East LA need not worry about pesky things like evidence and search warrants. Their way is the law of the street where informants are paid with stolen goods because nothing is free. They're protecting the sheep, and as Alonzo says "to catch the wolf, you have to be a wolf."

Jake's day takes a turn for the worse and a bunch of confusing plot twists leave him an accomplice to murder and armed robbery. As Jake tries to come to terms with the deep current of corruption in the LAPD his ethical idealism clashes hard with Alonzo's street logic. However Jake is more sheep than wolf and he naively follows Alonzo's lead until it is almost too late.

Despite the sappily unrealistic ending, *Training Day* succeeded in honestly depicting the disturbing third-world conditions that exist in modern-day America. Don't let the rap-laden soundtrack fool you; *Training Day* is not just another gangsta flick. It is the "gritty drama" it claims to be; the violence is not gratuitous but shocking and the characters are both complex and unpredictable. (Especially Snoop Dogg who does a fine job playing a wheelchair-bound crack dealer who snarfs down his rocks to avoid arrest.)

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Albert Einstein, wet t-shirts and jell-o

by Pamela King

A lot of people love to hate Matthew Good. They call him arrogant and overly sarcastic and way too outspoken. They tear him to pieces for saying things that they didn't think of and they discuss his obsessive use of expletives as if they've never heard the f-word before.

Maybe his words have some bite to them, but after listening to Matthew Good for two hours while reading his new book of short stories, *at last there is nothing left to say*, it became apparent that he is saying something relevant.

Matt Good is funny, intelligent and beautifully human. Maybe that's why he manages to piss people off. He's not willing to just stand there and look pretty and say what everyone wants to hear. Nope. Matthew Good is a person. What a concept.

Admittedly, I am a fan of the Matthew Good Band, but I went to the reading on October 4 ready to be objective. At least until I knew enough to form an opinion. In all honesty, it was difficult not to like Matthew Good. After reading "The Killing of Matthew Good," a story out of his collection, the writer and musician began to take random questions from the audience. These ranged from how his career began to what he thinks of Albert Einstein (The answers? "It was a fluke" and "He had fan-fucking-tastic hair").

Of the music business he said, "If you need recognition, don't do it. It should be able to fulfill you without recognition."

Perhaps his answers were not always profound, but then again, being that he's a person just like the rest of us, why should they have to be?

The talk did allow Matt to touch on some big topics, such as the events in New York on September 11. When asked about his views he began by calling it "the biggest attack on the North American continent in history, well, since we invaded it anyway."

He asked, "Who flies fucking airplanes into buildings? Desperate people who no one else will listen to." Of the American response Matt said, "If they want blood, they'll have it, and there isn't one good goddamn thing anyone can do about it. Unfortunately, history is written by the victors. Right and wrong have very little to do with it."

It seems to me that Matthew Good is just a normal guy with a lot on his mind. He says what he thinks and whether or not people like it really doesn't matter. And his new book? Well, it's all there, in black and white. "The Man With the Hole in His Head," chronicles the actions one person takes to find love and the ironic results.

"How Debbie Parks Drowned in Cherry Jell-O" is a (fictional?) account of a girl who gets naked and drowns in jell-o.

So, if you're into wit (and who isn't?), pick it up. If it doesn't appeal to you, don't. I'm not here to tell you what to do. If that thought troubles you then you probably wouldn't like it anyway.

When asked if he had any advice to dispense Matthew Good said, "There's only two things you need to do in this life: think for yourself and die."

So regardless of whether you like his music or his writing or even him, try to decide for yourself. And try to remember that despite his satirical tendencies, Matt is only human. In the midst of discussion about wet t-shirt contests he said, "There may be nothing greater in the world than that."

Thanks for the inspiration, Matt.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Hey everybody, we have a new T.V. station in town. Did you get to the party? Moka Only rocks the crowd at the New VI street party last week.

UVic waterpolo: a five minute lesson

by Ruth Knoop

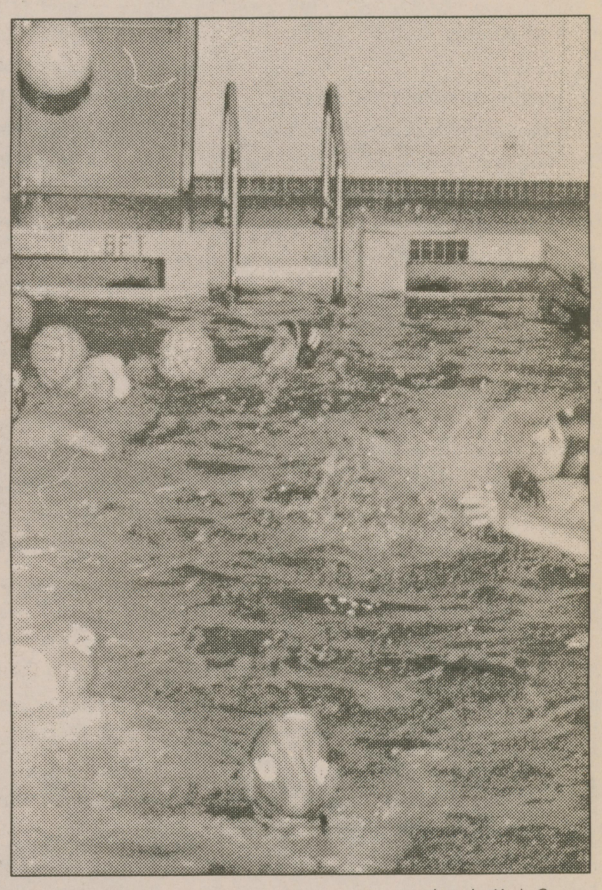

photo by Horia Coman

I must admit that when given the assignment for a preview of water polo my ignorance got the better of me: "Water polo? Does UVic even have a water polo team?" Well, yes it does. It turns out that while there is not a Vikes water polo team there is a water polo club team.

The club, which has nearly 50 members, is comprised mostly of post-secondary students.

Lauren Westmacott, a fourth-year anthropology student from Nanaimo, has been a member for the past three years and thinks it's a great team.

Although she admits that winning would be great, Westmacott just wants to have fun and ensures that all new players feel the same so that they will continue to play.

"We are focused on bringing new players in and teaching them how to play – if we win a few games on the way, that's a good thing."

One-hour morning practices occur twice a week, with a two-hour afternoon practice on Sunday afternoons.

Although there is no designated league, UVic competes against teams from UBC, SFU and the US. Last season's highlight was a tournament held in Seattle.

UVic's biggest rival this season will be Vancouver's Pacific Storm, who was one of the teams that UVic faced in their season-opening tournament this last weekend at UBC. The weekend of November 3 and 4 will be the first home tournament for the club team.

Now for all of you non-water polo players out there, here's a brief introduction to the basics of the game.

The game of water polo is played over four periods and each period is seven minutes. There is a two-minute rest period between each period and in between the second and third period both teams switch sides of the pool. Each team consists of approximate 13 players, with seven on the field at a time (including the goaltender).

Unlike most team sports water polo has no designated positions other than the goaltender and even that position can be rotated or substituted if necessary. Like hockey, substitutions occur frequently during play. A re-entry area is located two metres from the corner of the field of play. Unless play has been stopped or a player has been injured, substitutions can only occur in the re-entry area.

The game and periods begin with all active players taking up positions on their respective goal lines, approximately one metre apart from each other and at least one metre from the goal post. The match begins when the referee blows the whistle and throws the ball into play on the half distance line (the middle of the playing field).

The first player there takes possession of the ball and the game has begun. The ball is thrown between teammates until the chance for a throw on goal is available, at which point the game gets really exciting.

The scoring in water polo is quite simple: a goal is scored when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line, between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar. Goals can be scored by anyone from anywhere within the playing field with the exception of the goaltender. A goal may be scored by any part of the body except the clenched fist and can also be scored by dribbling the ball into the goal.

So there you have it – a brief introduction to water polo. Now you know that water polo isn't just a group of people with similar skullcaps trying not to drown.

The question now is how to put all this information to use. Well, with your newfound knowledge of water polo why not head on over to the Saanich Commonwealth Place and put all this information into play?

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Turkey Trotters and fun-lovers

by Ruth Knoop

On October 8 around 150 runners took part in the annual UVic Turkey Trot Fun Run. Organized by UVIC Rec Plus and Front Runners, this Thanksgiving Day run has become something of a tradition in the UVic community.

"It's a fun run," said Run Director Kathi Cameron. "There's no time; it's not serious. It's basically a Mom & Pop event." Event organizers do not know exactly when the Turkey Trot began but they say it dates back at least 15 years. "Our whole purpose is to have fun and to try to get people in."

The non-profit run is traditionally held the Monday following the Royal Victoria Marathon. This just happens to be Thanksgiving; hence the name. The 5 km route begins in Centennial Stadium, completes one lap of the UVic chip trail and finishes with one lap around the stadium. The event was originally intended as a cool-down to the marathon runners and still is, but over the years it has become a fun run; a way to de-stress oneself.

Organizers even manage to coax one lucky person into dressing up like a turkey to run the race. This year's turkey, Pat Audet, a member of the UVic cross-country team, had "no worries" about donning the costume and leading the runners. "It's my first time, but it should be fun."

Once all the runners have completed the course, draw prizes consisting of gift certificates and athletic apparel were drawn for the registered runners. As well, the first place male and female runners received a frozen turkey.

This year's race began at 10:00 a.m. By 9:00 a.m. runners had already began to take to the track in warm ups, full of eager anticipation. Oak Bay cross-country coach Keith Butler, who finished second overall, brought his cross-country team to the event for the experience. "I told them not to race, but to take it in strides; an intro to the season." As for his overall impression of the race – "it was a decent run. I tried to push the pace so that I could pass the first place runner, but just couldn't do it."

Other Trotters, like 19-year-old Aaron Holmgren and 23-year-old Marc Wilson, also had positive comments about the race. Holmgren, a middle distance varsity runner, finished first with a time of just under 15 minutes. "It was an awesome course. The whole race met my standards and I am very happy with my performance."

"It's good to support UVic," said Wilson, a geography student at UVic, who was not as happy about his performance. "I was going for the turkey but I was weighed down by last night's dinner. It hampered my performance."

Regardless of performance all participants enjoyed themselves and look forward to next year's run. So next Thanksgiving, instead of sitting at home why not head over to UVic and join in the fun of the Turkey Trot?

Who knows, you might walk away with more than just a turkey.

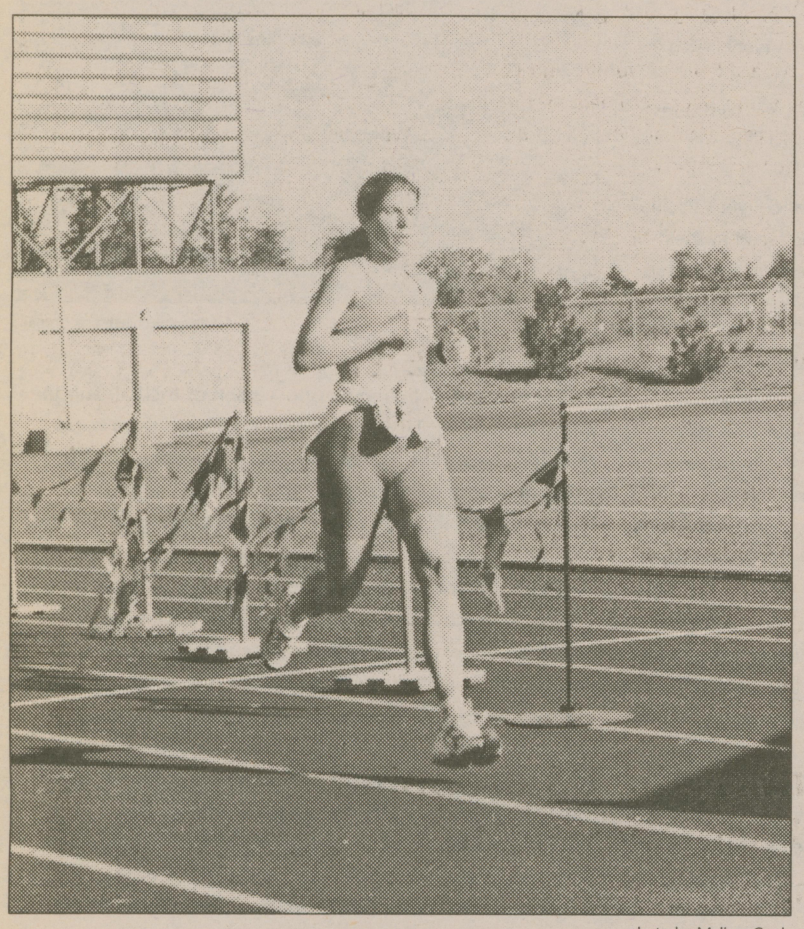

photo by Melissa Cook

Barbara Byrch was the first woman to trot across the finish line, Monday.

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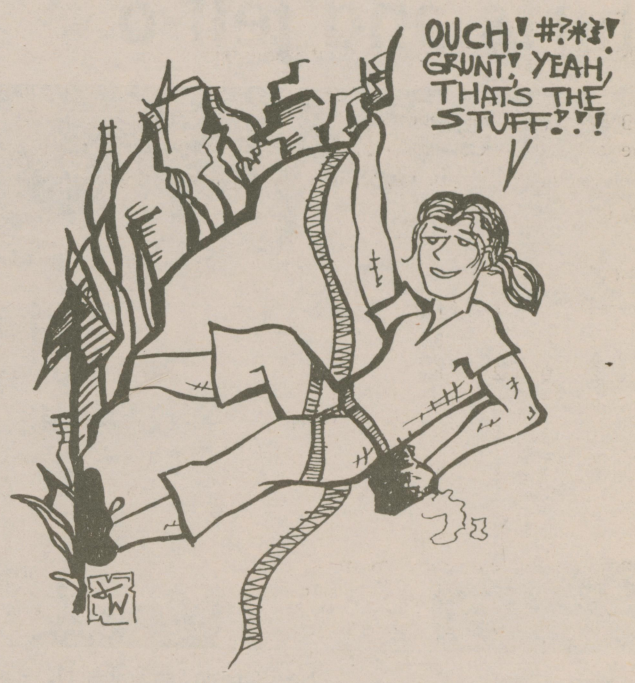


by Julia Smith

I know it's a good day of climbing when I am grunting, singing or swearing. People in the climbing gym don't understand this. They stop and stare when a young women with pig tails starts shouting curses at the rock in a high-pitched voice. When I climb outside no one is fazed when the humming of "Mission Impossible" is broken off by, "f***ing c***sucker!"

I also consider it an achievement to bleed. Gyms don't like blood on their walls. When you're climbing outside, bleeding hands, knees or wrists indicate hard work and bodily sacrifice. If you see dried blood on the rock it means someone before you enjoyed the climb too.

Am I a profane masochist? No, I am a rock climber and am desperately trying to resist the conversion to a gym monkey.

Why would I climb in a gym when I can do this? In the gym you just go up routes and down routes. What is the motivation? The dirt, the blood, the pain are part of the motivation. They create inspiration, excitement.

A gym monkey is someone who climbs in indoor gyms and rarely climbs outside. My purpose is not to insult or degrade these people (we all have to make our own choices in life); my problem is I cannot substitute the joy of climbing outside in the sun, dirt and grit for the chalky gym.

This past long weekend gave me the chance to return home to Squamish, one of the best rock climbing towns in Canada. It was sunny, the rocks were dry, and by 10 a.m. I was dressed in my oldest pants and tank top, with harness, rope and shoes in hand. The trees stirred in the wind, a chipmunk stole my granola bar, and it was blissfully peaceful. Until I tried to climb, that is.

It had been two months and, in my stubbornness, I had only been to the climbing gym twice. I was out of shape and out of practice. However, I made it to the top of my first climb with little difficulty, appreciating every moment. My hands were scratched, my feet were pinched, my arms were throbbing, but I was ecstatic.

As I climbed more my enthusiasm declined. I fell on a 5.9 and I don't fall on 5.9s. I was swearing, but without joy. Instead of grunting I was grinding my teeth. There was nothing to sing. My arms wouldn't pull when I needed them to. My legs were shaky. I had a scary suspicion that I was losing my touch.

So I went bouldering. Unlike root climbing, bouldering doesn't require ropes or gear. You stay relatively low to the ground and often move in directions other than the traditional up. It demands a high skill level and fancy maneuvering. It is the short and sweet of the climbing sports.

I weaved in-between the trees and boulders, pleased to be surrounded by a wilderness devoid of city bustle. It was just me, the rock and numerous other sweaty climbers.

I confidently began a bouldering problem I knew well, but I failed. Which means that I swung around a lot, tried to scramble up with my feet, slapped ineffectively at the rock, but made it. It was a poor show but it felt orgasmic. My body ached, but with pleasure. My hands were cut, but tingling with excitement.

I trudged through the mud to another problem and worked it. I moved on to several more until my hands would no longer hold on to the rock and my feet were screaming for release from their encompassing shoes. I returned home like Cinderella from the ball, ragged and exhausted but sublimely happy.

Why would I climb in a gym when I can do this? In the gym you just go up routes and down routes. What is the motivation? The dirt, the blood, the pain are part of the motivation. They create inspiration, excitement.

Even Victoria's Craig X, which is one of the best gyms around, can't entice me. Good bouldering and friendly staff don't make up for the lack of adventure.

I was troubled as I returned to Victoria on Monday and contemplated that I wouldn't be back in Squamish for at least a month. By then the cold wet would have set in and climbing would be almost impossible.

With resignation I realized if I want to stay in shape and keep the touch for my favorite sport, I would have to go to the gym. I will have to climb quietly without the dirt, the blood, and the beautiful wilderness. I would have to temporarily substitute the grit and adventure of the outdoors for the chalky indoor atmosphere.

Why? Because in the end it's still climbing. Distance, winter and rain make the rocks inaccessible but when the sun shines I want to sing loudly, curse with joy, grunt with determination and climb well.

Sports roundup

Women's Field Hockey
Canada West Tournament #2 @ University of Manitoba

UVic 1 Calgary 1 (UVic: Elise Roberts)
UVic 5 Alberta 0 (UVic: Kate Lindsay (2), Lauren McLean, Natalie Ward, Elise Roberts)
UVic 4 Manitoba 0 (UVic: Kate Lindsay (2), Haley Wickmere, Tracey Court)
UVic 0 UBC 0

FINAL RESULTS

	W	L	T	PTS.
UBC	2	0	2	8
Victoria	2	0	2	8
Alberta	2	2	0	6
Manitoba	1	2	1	4
Calgary	0	3	1	1

Overall standings after two tournaments

	G	W	L	T	F	A	P
UBC	8	6	0	2	17	4	20
Victoria	8	4	1	3	17	5	15
Alberta	8	4	4	0	7	12	12
Calgary	8	1	5	2	7	12	5
Manitoba	4	1	6	1	4	19	4

Women's Soccer
UVic 2 TWU 0 (UVic: Amelie Mercier, Liz Hansen)

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
TWU	8	4	1	3	11	6	15
UBC	7	3	1	3	12	10	12
Alberta	6	3	0	3	14	2	12
Victoria	7	3	2	2	10	10	11
Calgary	5	3	1	1	19	2	10
Saskatchewan	8	2	4	2	8	7	8
Lethbridge	6	2	4	0	13	20	6
Regina	7	0	7	0	4	34	0

Men's Soccer
UVic 4 TWU 0 (UVic: Sean Battistoni (3), Trevor Stiles)

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Victoria	7	4	1	2	11	3	14
Alberta	6	4	0	2	11	2	14
Saskatchewan	6	3	2	1	8	8	10
UBC	6	2	2	2	11	7	8
Calgary	5	2	3	0	10	13	6
TWU	7	1	5	1	4	13	4
Lethbridge	5	1	4	0	2	11	3

This week in sports

HOME

WOMEN'S SOCCER Fri. Oct. 12, 5:00p.m.	vs. UBC @ CENTENNIAL STADIUM
WOMEN'S RUGBY Sat. Oct. 13, 11:30 a.m.	vs. UBC @ WALLACE FIELD
MEN'S RUGBY Sat. Oct. 13, 3:00 p.m.	vs. MERALOMA @ WALLACE FIELD
X-COUNTRY Sat. Oct.13, 12:30 p.m.	VIKES INVITATIONAL @BEACON HILL PARK
MEN'S SOCCER Sat. Oct.13, 2:30 p.m.	vs. UBC @CENTENNIAL STADIUM
WOMEN'S SOCCER Sun. Oct.14, 12:00 p.m.	vs. REGINA @ CENTENNIAL STADIUM
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Sun. Oct.14, 7:00 pm	vs. REGINA @ MCKINNON GYM

AWAY

MEN'S BASKETBALL Oct. 12 – 14	@ CARLETON INVITATIONAL TOURNEY OTTAWA, ON
ROWING (M, W) Oct. 14	@ DEEP COVE CLASSIC VANCOUVER

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

South Vancouver Island Mycological Society presents Taylor F. Lockwood, Mushroom Photographer Extraordinaire, on **Thursday, Oct. 11,** 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 168 of the Elliott building, UVic. $5 admission (free to SVIMS).

Victoria Hindu Parishad presents Diwali 2001! With a variety of Indian classical and semi-classical dances and Hindi and Punjabi songs and other musical entertainment at University Centre Auditorium on **October 20** at 7 p.m. Tix $10 adults, $8 students, $6 children under 12. Tix from Island Video (475-1212).

OFF CAMPUS

Big Tree Rainforest Tours – Volunteer opportunities in town or trails. Sat/Sun daytrips Walbran-Carmanah, 381-1141 carmanah@pacificcoast.net.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer opportunities at George Jay Elementary School. Gearge Jay would like to extend an invitation to students who are pursuing a career in Education or Child and Youth Care. Students will have the opportunity to gain experience with children both individually or in groups in a lively, culturally diverse, inner-city school community. For more info and an appointment, please contact Tessa Lloyd, at 385-3381.

Volunteers wanted by Blanshard Community Centre for two youth programs. Training provided. For information phone Kristine/Shayne at 388-7696 or Sylvia at 382-0627.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leonard Peltier, Mumia, and Lori Berenson all cry for freedom from the shelves of Haultain Video, 1508 Haultain, 592-5124.

EMPLOYMENT

Travel – teach English: job guarantee. 5 day/40hr **(Nov. 14-18)** TESOL Teacher cert. course (or by corresp.) FREE info pack 1-888-270-2941 www.canadianglobal.net

FOR RENT

Suite to rent: Fairfield, quiet character duplex bachelor suite. Garden access. Suits 1 non-smoker, female preferred. $550/month inclusive. Avail. Jan. 1. Call Patricia at 381-1615.

FOR SALE

Discount tire and auto repairs. Guaranteed tires from $10. 383-1050.

Vancouver Island Recreation Map, backroads, hiking trails, campsites, mountain bike parks, insets Carmanah-Walbran, Juan de Fuca Trail and Nahmint.. $10 to CFS, 1431 Richardson St., Victoria, V8S 1R1.

HEY YOU

Will someone please save me from self-inflicted sabotage? Why do I feel this urge to self-destruct?

Loving you is perpetually episodic.

BILLBOARD RATES

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines + $2/extra line
hey you!	$1/issue

ON THE SPOT

What do you think of the US dropping humanitarian aid packages in Afghanistan as well as bombs?

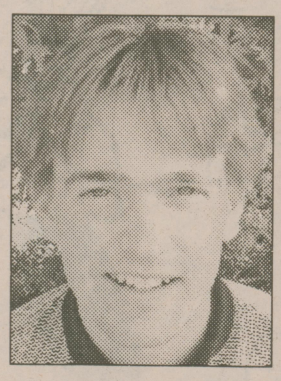
compiled by Ruth Knoop

Tristan McDonald
3rd year education

On one hand, they are trying to be accurate, warn citizens, and give out aid. As for dropping bombs, they have to follow through on their threats, but we have to be very wary of the measures they take. If they are doing everything to minimize casualties and to help the people of Afghanistan to survive, then I guess it makes sense.

Colleen Sarsfield
3rd year sociology

First of all, I think that it is an attempt to make the US look good. I think that the money put into it isn't the most efficient way to support the people. They are imposing our capitalist ideas on their religion. But I don't doubt that they have to do something, but not necessarily in that way.



Stefan Hall
3rd year computer science

I always disagree with war. If you are going to drop aid and warn them, then that is a good idea, but where will the people go? The bombing is very political because the US is just showing off to their own country and internationally as well.

Ainslie Greig
2nd year history and anthropology

I guess it is nice. If they are going to bomb the shit out of them then they might as well help them too. The US probably feels guilty about it. At least they realize that it is not the entire country's citizens who are to blame, and are trying to do something about it.

wanna get involved with the Martlet?
why not come to a meeting...
mondays and thursdays at 12.30
or if you can't make it then, just stop by and talk to us.
you'll be glad you did.

COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH

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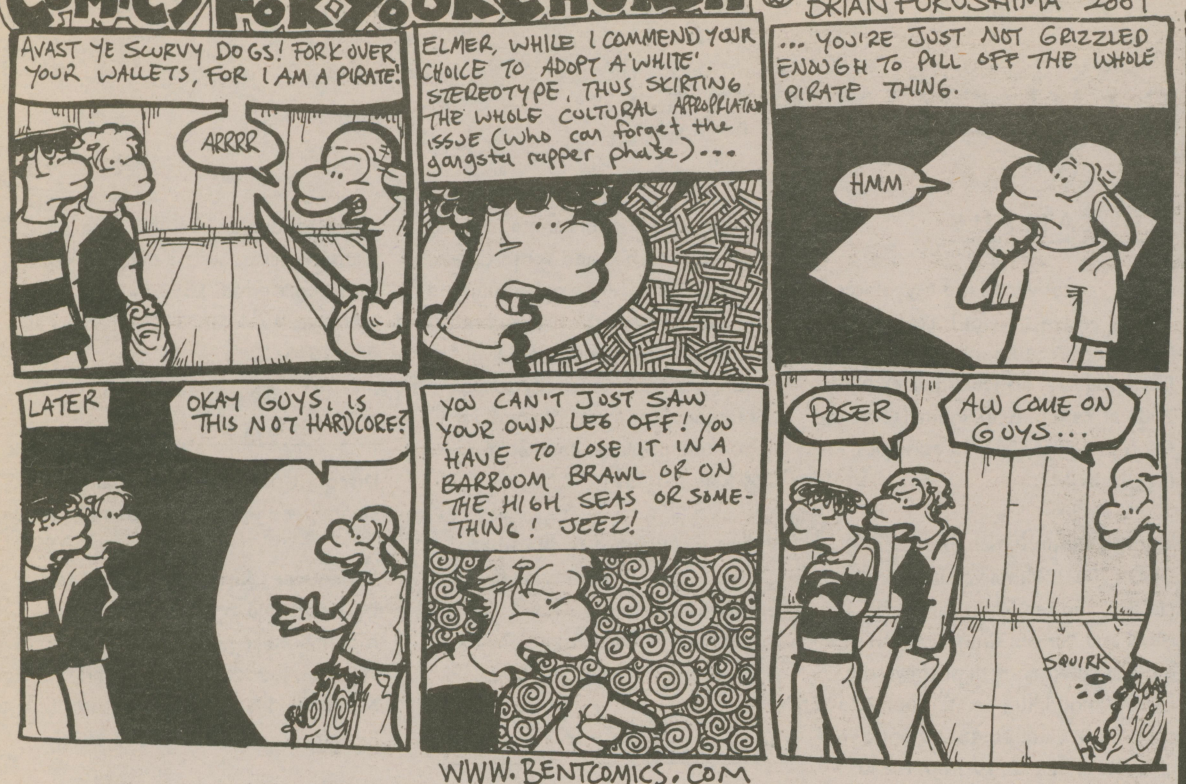
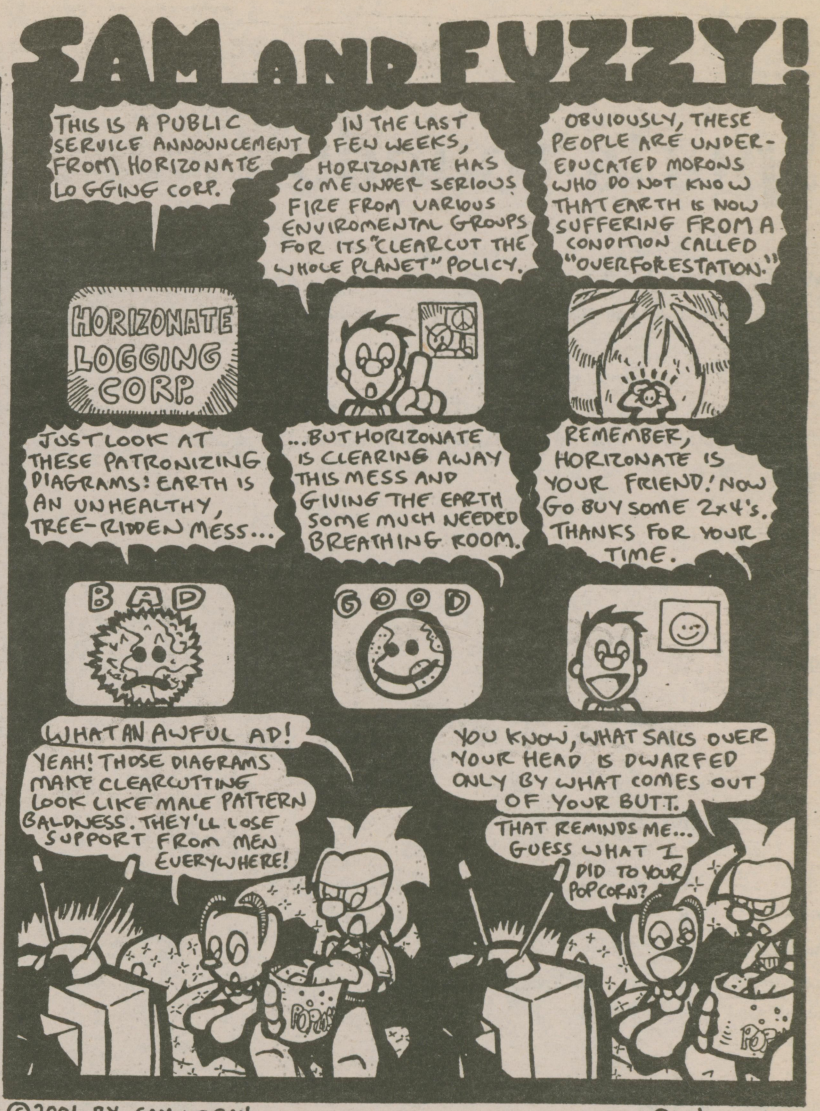

AVAST YE SCURVY DOGS! FORK OVER YOUR WALLETS, FOR I AM A PIRATE!
ARRRR
ELMER, WHILE I COMMEND YOUR CHOICE TO ADOPT A 'WHITE' STEREOTYPE, THUS SKIRTING THE WHOLE CULTURAL APPROPRIATION ISSUE (who can forget the gangsta rapper phase)...
... YOU'RE JUST NOT GRIZZLED ENOUGH TO PULL OFF THE WHOLE PIRATE THING.
HMM
LATER
OKAY GUYS, IS THIS NOT HARDCORE?
YOU CAN'T JUST SAW YOUR OWN LEG OFF! YOU HAVE TO LOSE IT IN A BARROOM BRAWL OR ON THE HIGH SEAS OR SOMETHING! JEEZ!
POSER
AW COME ON GUYS...
SQUIRK

WWW.BENTCOMICS.COM

SAM AND FUZZY!


THIS IS A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM HORIZONATE LOGGING CORP.
IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, HORIZONATE HAS COME UNDER SERIOUS FIRE FROM VARIOUS ENVIROMENTAL GROUPS FOR ITS "CLEARCUT THE WHOLE PLANET" POLICY.
OBVIOUSLY, THESE PEOPLE ARE UNDER-EDUCATED MORONS WHO DO NOT KNOW THAT EARTH IS NOW SUFFERING FROM A CONDITION CALLED "OVERFORESTATION."
HORIZONATE LOGGING CORP.
JUST LOOK AT THESE PATRONIZING DIAGRAMS! EARTH IS AN UNHEALTHY, TREE-RIDDEN MESS...
...BUT HORIZONATE IS CLEARING AWAY THIS MESS AND GIVING THE EARTH SOME MUCH NEEDED BREATHING ROOM.
REMEMBER, HORIZONATE IS YOUR FRIEND! NOW GO BUY SOME 2x4's. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.
BAD
GOOD
WHAT AN AWFUL AD!
YEAH! THOSE DIAGRAMS MAKE CLEARCUTTING LOOK LIKE MALE PATTERN BALDNESS. THEY'LL LOSE SUPPORT FROM MEN EVERYWHERE!
YOU KNOW, WHAT SAILS OVER YOUR HEAD IS DWARFED ONLY BY WHAT COMES OUT OF YOUR BUTT.
THAT REMINDS ME... GUESS WHAT I DID TO YOUR POPCORN?

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esrever@eudoramail.com

1st year Adventures In Rez

Back in The Day There were "Social Dorms". The Common Past time was Breaking Things, Then "Fixing" Them with stuff from other Buildings.

one day...

Ahhhrrg, I totally Bombed that Test!

SO I'll...

Just take my U-Lock and smash...

This little plastic Thingee!

Guess I'll Have to Fix That- Better take IT OFF...

What's With These wires?

THEY Have to come OFF!

And take Them off he did... which caused a Fire alarm.

Yawning

Ahh Put It Back!

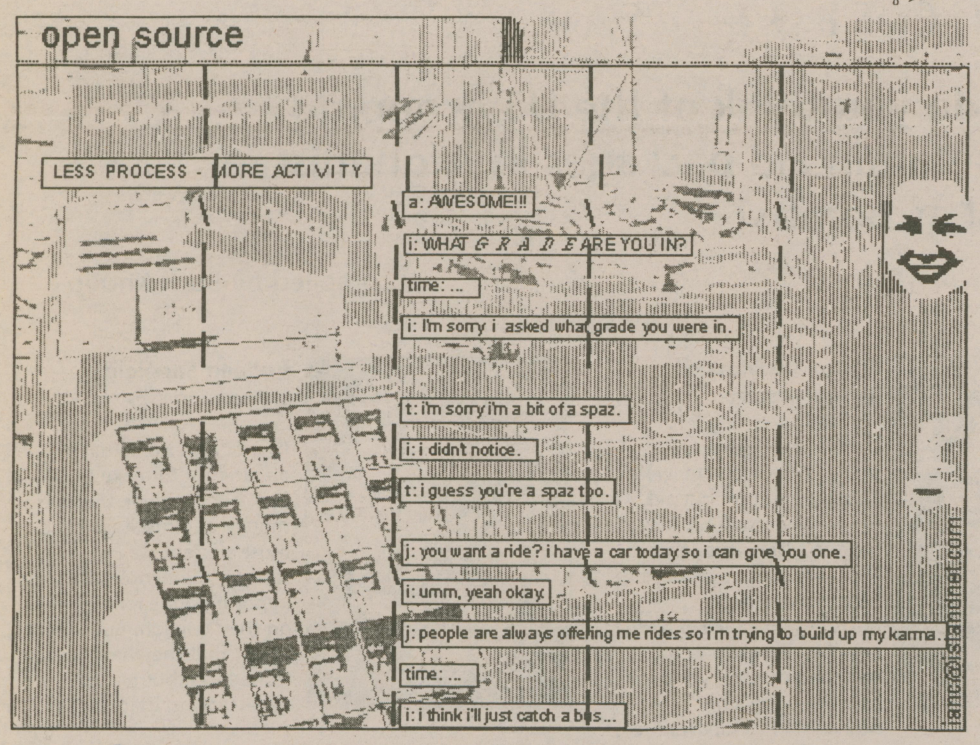
After The smoke cleared, He had to re-attach The wires- which Started The Bell again.

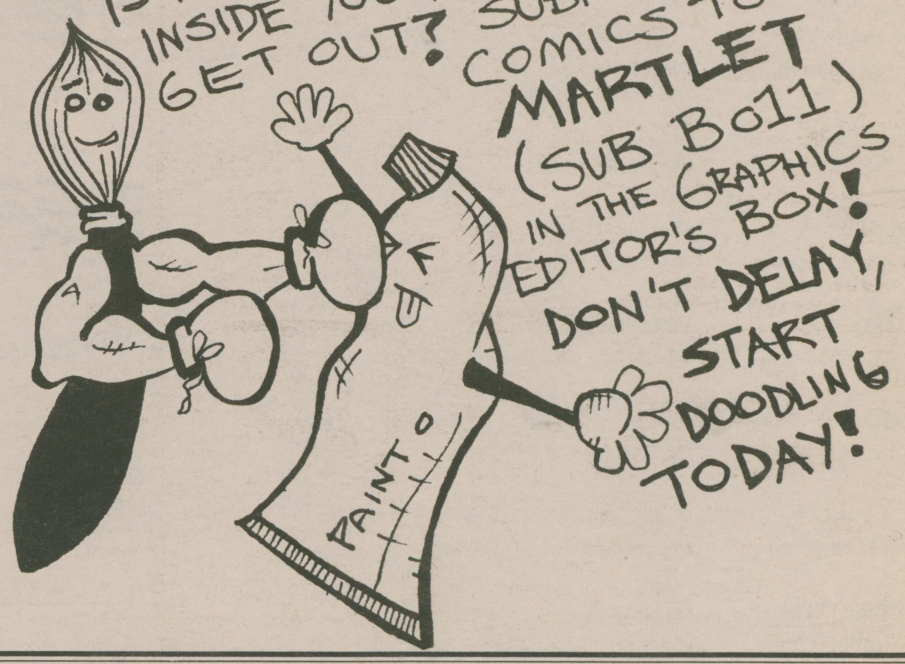
Campus Security were right outside. He was arrested by The police.

ahWutz

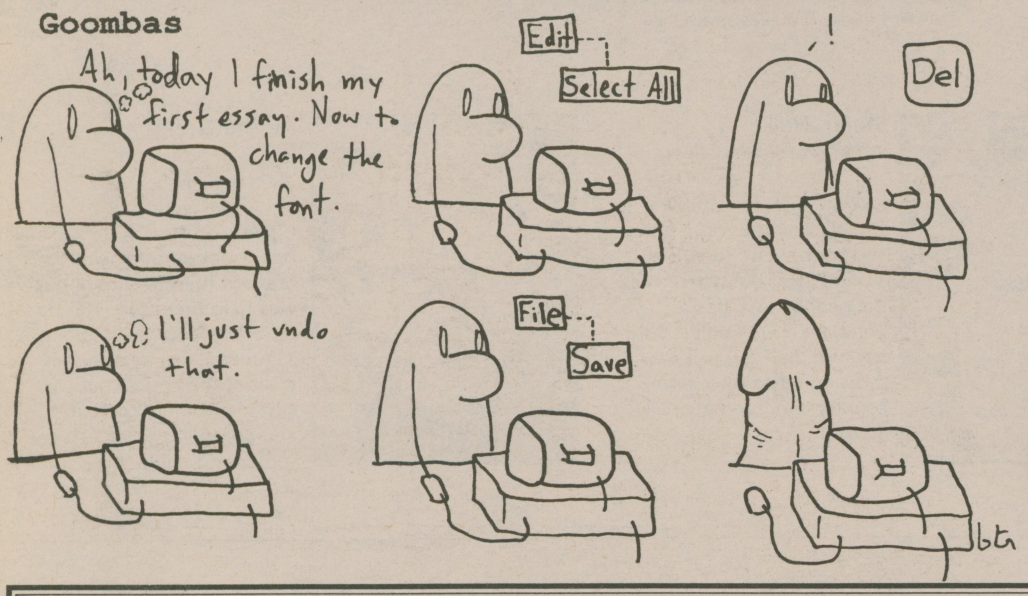
Pespective was gained.

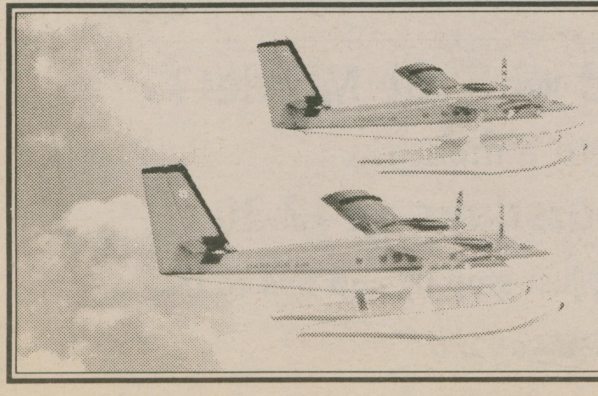
And The Moral? It might've Helped had he known That The PEER HELPING office is in The S.U.B - 6108, 8:30 - 4:30 M-F.


open source
LESS PROCESS - MORE ACTIVITY
a: AWESOME!!!
i: WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN?
time: ...
i: I'm sorry i asked what grade you were in.
t: i'm sorry i'm a bit of a spaz.
i: i didn't notice.
t: i guess you're a spaz too.
j: you want a ride? i have a car today so i can give you one.
i: umm, yeah okay.
j: people are always offering me rides so i'm trying to build up my karma.
time: ...
i: i think i'll just catch a bus...
ianic@islandnet.com


HEY KIDS! IS THERE AN ARTIST INSIDE YOU FIGHTING TO GET OUT? SUBMIT YOUR COMICS TO THE MARTLET (SUB B011) IN THE GRAPHICS EDITOR'S BOX! DON'T DELAY, START DOODLING TODAY!
PAINT

Goombas





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